

MAN MAKES OFF WITH \$4,800 DIAMOND RING

PUBLIC SAFETY, A4

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THURSDAY  
April 29, 2010

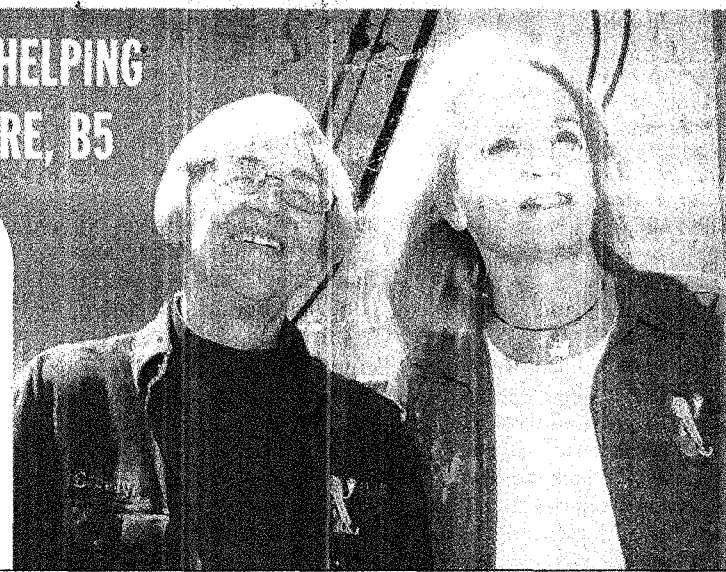
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# WESTLAND OBSERVER

online at hometownlife.com



## AROUND TOWN

### Pasta dinner

The monthly spaghetti dinner at the Dyer Senior Center in Westland will be 4-7 p.m. Friday, April 23. Enjoy spaghetti, salad and desert, as well as entertainment, for just \$6.

The Dyer Center is at 36745 Marquette, east of Newburgh, in Westland. For more information, call (734) 419-2020.

### Office hours

As part of her ongoing effort to reach out to constituents, Wayne County Commissioner Joan Gebhardt, D-Livonia, has announced her spring-summer office hours.

Gebhardt represents the 12th District, which includes the communities of Westland, Inkster and the southern portion of Livonia.

The first Monday of the month, she will be at McDonald's restaurant, 27125 Cherry Hill, Inkster, at noon. The second Monday of the month, her office hours will be 10 a.m. at Starbucks, 36545 Warren Road, Westland and 6-8 p.m. at the William P. Faust Library, 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland. The fourth Monday of the month, Gebhardt will be at Biggy Coffee, 33328 Plymouth Road, Livonia, at 10 a.m.

"I always look forward to talking with citizens, finding out what their concerns are, and updating them on county issues," Gebhardt said.

Residents can also contact Gebhardt's office directly with their questions or concerns by calling (313) 224-0907 or by e-mail at [District12@co.wayne.mi.us](mailto:District12@co.wayne.mi.us).

### Top honor

Judy Sulaver, a school social worker at Hicks and Elliott Elementary schools, has been named the Michigan Association of School Social Workers Region A School Social Worker of the Year for 2010.

Sulaver was selected for the honor based on her outstanding service and continued contributions to the advancement of the field of school social work. She provides individual and group support to approximately 500 students in first-fifth grades at the two Wayne-Westland schools.

She will receive her award at a celebration Friday, May 7, in the auditorium of the Wayne County Regional Educational Services building on Van Born Road in Wayne.

## W-W board splits over Baracy's review

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

A divided Wayne-Westland school board has given School Superintendent Greg Baracy an outstanding evaluation for 2009-10.

The board voted 5-2 Monday evening to approve the evaluation. Trustees Carol Middel and John Goci cast the no votes.

"Our superintendent has shown his

devotion to the job and understanding of what is best for the students of this district," said board President Skip Monit, speaking on behalf of his colleagues who favored the review. "He is deeply committed and exhibits his dedication to this district on a daily basis."

Goci, however, took issue with the evaluation and Baracy's contract.

"What happened with the contract? I expressed some concern about his

salary," said Goci. "We had an evaluation, but the contract never came up."

The board met March 29 in closed session to conduct the evaluation which was based on two major topics — the high priority goals set for Baracy by the school board and his relations with the board, community, media and staff. The latter area also encompassed his professional leadership abilities.

The goals included the creation,

organization and completion of work by the district's 21st Century Schools Committee, which came up with the reconfiguration plan for the school district.

Ratings of below, meets or exceeds expectations were assigned to the items related to the two topics. According to Monit, "the board's total summary evaluation was in the upper

Please see **REVIEW, A2**

## Businesses brace for fallout from smoking law

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Michigan's law requiring restaurants and bars to be smoke-free starting Saturday has driven George Marvaso to the Internet for some research.

"It looks like the law will hurt us, but then I think it will come back. That was kind of the word of mouth," said Marvaso, owner of Marvaso's Italian Grille. "In Kentucky, California and other places where they've done this, business was down 25 percent at first. After things settled down, people came back."

The restaurant, which has had smoking and nonsmoking areas, may actually benefit from the smoking ban, he said.

"I'm not a smoker. People have said that they really like the restaurant and if it was nonsmoking, they would come in more," Marvaso said. "Smoking has more negatives than positives."

The restaurant has been open nearly eight years while Marvaso's adjoining business, the Electric Stick, has been open nearly 18 years. To change with the demand, the Electric Stick still has pool tables but much of its floor space is now devoted to tables for charity poker games that are held nightly.

"I think the restaurant could end up being better off with the smoking ban, it's the bar section that has me concerned," Marvaso said. "In the poker room, there is a no smoking section anyway. People can take a break and go to the other area to smoke. Now, they will have to go outside."

In addition, Marvaso noted that the smoking ban exempts casinos and wondered about the impact on the charity poker games.

The new law is forcing changes at the Wayne-Ford Civic League, said Vic Barra, league president.

"It will definitely have an impact

Please see **SMOKING, A2**



George Marvaso, owner of Marvaso's Italian Grille believes the state's new smoking ban will hurt his business, although it will eventually come back.

## State works to educate residents about new law

The Michigan Department of Community Health recently kicked off a Public Education Campaign to raise awareness on the statewide smoke free law, which takes effect May 1.

A large number of local community tobacco coalitions and health agencies are conducting presentations to community groups and businesses across the state about the specifics of the law.

"The smoking ban is a very important law that promotes health and protects residents from the dangers of secondhand smoke," said Janet Olszewski, MDCH director. "We are excited to partner with various groups and organizations to help educate the public and businesses about a law that will help us all live in a healthier environment."

MDCH has developed a Web site that communicates the details of the

law, provides information for businesses on how to comply with the law, and contains affidavits to apply for the cigar bar and tobacco specialty shop exemption. The Web site also has a Frequently Asked Questions section that answers the most commonly asked questions about the smoking ban.

On Dec. 18, 2009, Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed legislation that prohibits smoking in public places, such as restaurants, bars, and hotels, or any place that serves food or beverages. The Ron M. Davis Law, named after the late chief medical officer of the Michigan Department of Public Health, makes Michigan the 38th state to ban smoking in public places.

The new law allows exemptions for the gaming floors at the three Detroit casinos, but the other casino bars and

eateries must be smoke-free, including the casinos' restaurants and hotels. Michigan's 20 American-Indian casinos are not covered by state law.

Cigar bars, tobacco specialty shops, home offices, commercial trucks and motor vehicles are also exempt. Businesses that are planning to file for the tobacco specialty shop and cigar bar exemption are encouraged to go to the Web site [www.michigan.gov/smokefreelaw](http://www.michigan.gov/smokefreelaw) to obtain the proper forms.

Due to provisions outlined in the law, affidavits and applications for the exemption will not be accepted prior to May 1, 2010. Individuals and business owners who violate the law will be subject to penalties of \$100 for the first offense and \$500 for subsequent offenses.

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## Glenn student remembered as 'giving' person

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Friends and family planned to gather at the Cathedral of Faith Church in Detroit today to lay to rest an 18-year-old John Glenn High School student who died last Friday of injuries he suffered in an April 21 accident in Canton Township.

Lance Lorenzo McKay II and his cousin were pushing his disabled car along Michigan Avenue near Hannan when they were struck by another car. The Inkster resident received aid from a Canton police officer before being airlifted to the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor. His cousin sustained less serious injuries in the accident which happened on westbound Michigan Avenue in the same vicinity of a two-car crash Sunday that claimed the life of a Plymouth teen.

McKay's death has been a blow to his family and friends. A fourth-year student at the Westland high school, McKay is remembered as a very giving person.

"He had a smile that would light up a room,"



Eighteen-year-old Lance McKay is being remembered as a giving person. The teen died April 23 from injuries sustained in an accident April 21.

said his father, Lance McKay. "He had so much respect for people and was totally giving of himself."

According to his father, the teen, who

Please see **MCKAY, A2**

## Gunmen rob cash advance store of money, phones

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Westland police are looking for information on two men wanted for robbing a cash advance store at gunpoint and binding the clerk with duct tape April 23.

An employee at Approved Cash Advance, 8367 N. Wayne Road, called at 11:20 a.m. after she was able to free herself.

The clerk told police that two men were in the store as one of them filled out a loan application. When two other customers, the only others in the store, left, the clerk said one of the men produced a black semi-automatic handgun. The suspect demanded the money from the drawer, the clerk said, along with grabbing

the cash on the counter that had been left by a previous customer.

The gunman walked behind the counter and began checking drawers for cash, the clerk said, then asked about the safe. The clerk said the gunman told her to come with him to the back where the safe is located and told his companion to follow.

Once in the back room, the clerk said the second man produced a roll of duct tape, bound her hands and feet with the tape before making her lay on her stomach on the floor.

Finding no more cash, the clerk said the suspects took all of the business's telephone headsets, the cordless phone and her cell phone

Please see **ROBBERY, A2**

REVIEW

FROM PAGE A1

range of meets and exceeds expectations.

"This board has grown to appreciate his knowledge of school affairs and witnessed his leadership skills," Monit said.

Goci did not comment on the evaluation per se, but instead focused on Baracy's contract, describing it as "never ending."

given by the board leaves him with a "perpetual" four-year agreement.

However, this year's evaluation did not include a contract extension nor a pay increase.

In his 13th year as superintendent, Baracy's base salary is \$176,611, although he receives compensation for having a doctoral degree, meeting merit pay goals and in recognition of an added workload in overseeing the district bond issues and sinking fund.

Goci also pressed board members to know who negotiated the contract. He said he was told it was "one of the worst kinds of contracts" by the Michigan Association of School Boards.

"Why are our kids living with a contract no one here negotiated?" he said. Board Secretary Martha Pitsenbarger, the longest serving member of the board, told Goci that it was not a case of sitting down and negotiating as with the district unions.

was here and long before Dr. Baracy was here.

Goci also questioned the board's statement of Baracy taking a pay freeze this year when the district will be contributing 20 percent to his retirement.

"Retirement rates are set by the state and are for all school employees. Everyone is getting 20 percent," said Baracy. "You have no control of the retirement rate. It's state-mandated."

"One aspect of a board member's job is to evaluate the superintendent and give input," Baracy added. "If you don't like the contract, if you don't like my job, vote no."

While Goci maintained that talk of Baracy's contract never came up during the evaluation, board Vice President Cindy Schofield pointed out that he wasn't present.

"It came up, but you had left the meeting 35 minutes earlier," she told Goci.

Monit added that "there was no consensus among board members to extend the contract."

"The board was not motivated to discuss the specifics, it remains as is," he said. Goci, in comments at the end of the meeting, pointed out that the "issue is salaries are too high with the total compensation."

"I'd really like to see us hire more teachers, I'd like to see us consolidate administrative positions," he said. "My issues with Greg Baracy's salary have been there since day one. To take pay freeze is not enough. I'd like to see him take a pay cut."

Middel did not comment on the evaluation. When asked about her no vote, she said she "can't say anything because it was a closed meeting."

"I don't want to violate the Open Meetings Act, a lot of discussion happened in the meeting that I can't speak to," she said.

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ROBBERY

FROM PAGE A1

and fled through the back door. It was reported that \$1,800 in cash had been stolen.

Both Westland police dogs arrived and followed a track that ended in the Woodcrest Apartments parking lot. A customer, an Oak Park man, told police he was short on the amount to pay off his loan and had left to go to a bank but returned while police were there.

The suspect with the gun was described as a black male, 25 years old, 6-foot-2, 170 pounds with a thin build. The second suspect was described as a black male, 25 years old, 5-foot-10, weighing 200 pounds.

Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to call Westland police Sgt. David Zucchetto at (734) 722-9600.

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SMOKING

FROM PAGE A1

on us initially. There is a lot of miscommunication out there among the customers," said Barra. "I've been spending a lot of time trying to explain to people that we will have no smoking at all inside the facility."

The smoking ban is requiring the league to make adjustments to games, including bingo.

"Bingo lasts three hours and about 50 percent of my customer base are smokers," he said. "We've had to make changes in that. We'll have to do some renovations to the building for a smoking area like a shelter at the back of the building. That way people can go outside to smoke."

The smoking wasn't as much an issue at the league as some other buildings, Barra said, due to the very high ceilings.

Over at Westland Bowl,

signs on the entrances announce it will soon be a nonsmoking facility — there really weren't any nonsmoking areas previously. Employed at the business for 40 years, manager Bob Schmidt said he expects the smoking ban will affect business a bit.

"We get some calls asking if we are nonsmoking. There are people who really want to smoke," said Schmidt. "You should have been in here 30 years ago (to see smoking)."

This will affect us. When the next season starts in the fall, we'll see who is back. People get set in their ways — if they can't smoke, they won't bowl."

Not a smoker himself, Schmidt said the second-hand smoke inside Westland Bowl never bothered him.

"Something will get you anyway. I'm on dialysis, so maybe it will be my kidneys," he said. "Talk about smoke — look at the car exhaust. You can't go outside."

While her business doesn't

server food or drinks and isn't affected by the smoking ban, Kerry Laundromat and Dry Cleaners owner Theresa Min said she has continued the nonsmoking section in the laundromat that was in place when she bought the business.

"I plan to switch to no smoking. A ban would be good for us, definitely," she said. "We have customers who are washing baby clothes and don't want the smoke."

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MCKAY

FROM PAGE A1

worked at the Palace Supermarket in Westland, would carry groceries to the cars of customers. He also would shovel snow for neighbors and refuse any offer of payment.

"He wanted an \$80 pair of jeans and I told him he had to get a job. He got one and worked there for three years,

he was very reliable," his father said.

His sister, Leah, was close to her little brother, whom she called "my baby."

"If you look at me, you see him," she said. "We were so close in age, we were only 18 months apart. I'm 19 and he just turned 18 three weeks ago."

"I'm going to miss him being here," she said. "He had my back when I was wrong, he had my back when I was right. The last thing he said to me was 'I love you' before he left for work that day. They were going to visit one of their friends when his car ran out of gas."

McKay was popular among students at John Glenn, according to Assistant Principal Marva Foster, who worked with the teen.

"He was liked by many," she said.

The school let students know of McKay's death last Friday afternoon and this week opened a grief center, staffed by the school psychologist, social worker and counselors, in the media center, to assist students, Foster said.

His popularity was reflected in a candlelight vigil held Sunday at the McKay home in Inkster. According to Lance McKay, 600-700 friends and

fellow students showed up.

"I knew there was going to be a vigil, but I didn't think it would be that big," he said. "I found out that he was very well liked."

Lance McKay recalled that over the past two months he had been after his son about going the wrong way in life. He learned from the teen's cousin that he had similar concerns.

"He told me that Lance said, 'Pops is right,'" Lance McKay said. "He had decided he was going to enlist in the Navy after high school."

The teen was able to save several lives even in death, with the family donating tissue, ten-

dons and organs to the Gift of Life for transplant purposes.

"He was a go-getter, always giving of himself, I'm so proud of him," Lance McKay said. "I loved him so much, I wish I could trade places with him. He was my heart."

Lance Lorenzo McKay II is survived by his parents, Lance and Jody McKay, sisters Leah and Avielle Kimble, grandparents Charles and Nancy McKay Jr. and Robert and Lois Selle, and several aunts, uncles and cousins. Arrangements were by Penn Funeral Home, Inkster.

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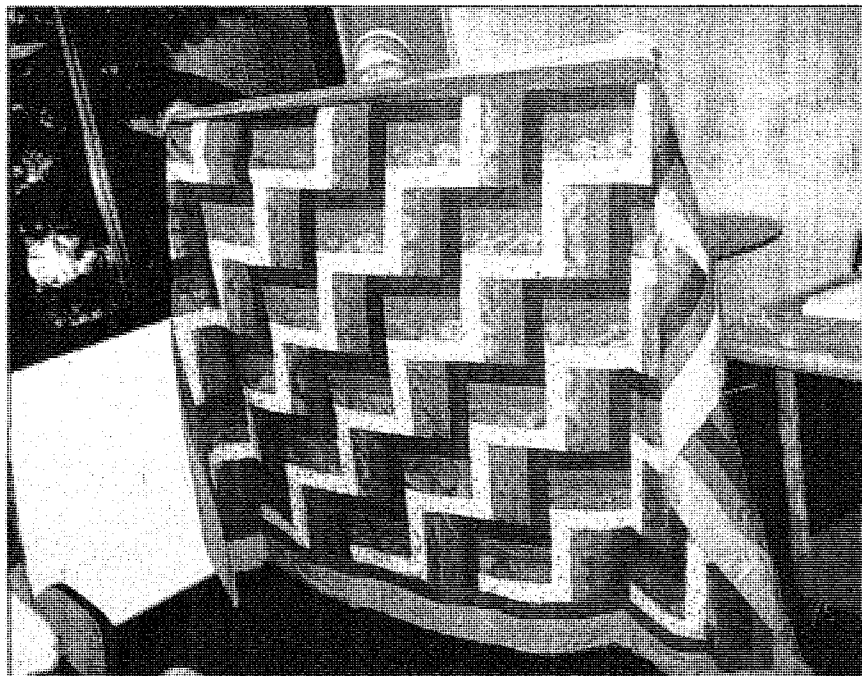
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This is one of the many quilts that will be on display during the Plymouth/Westland Grange's sixth annual Quilt and Needle Arts Show at St. John Episcopal Church in Westland.

## Grange ready for 6th annual quilt show

BY SUE MASON  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Quilts and the needle arts will be the center of attention when the Plymouth/Westland Grange presents its sixth annual Quilt and Needle Arts Show Saturday, May 1, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Westland.

"This will be a new place for use, it should be quite interesting," said Sharon Strebbling, who is coordinating the show with Leora Smith and Betty Henkins. "We have quilts coming in from Texas and Tennessee and some antiques. One lady is bringing a pop-up quilt. She says that if you look at then move it, it pops up. I can't wait to see it."

The show will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the hall of the church, 555 S. Wayne Road, south of Cherry Hill.

There will be prizes and gifts given out throughout the day. Grange members also have made up 150 hand-sewn bags that will be given away at the door. Almost every bag will

contain a hand-sewn silk scarf made by a Grange member, Strebbling said.

Two classes are being offered. Avid quilter and retired Wayne-Westland teacher Jeanine Klay is teaching "Quilt as You Go" from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., while Norma Swires will help participants make a Schlep Bag 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Klay's class costs \$60 while Swires' class costs \$30. Space is limited and people can call Strebbling at (734) 722-4857 about entry forms and available space.

"The classes are always interesting and Jeanine has been with us for six years," said Strebbling. "She's a former JoAnn Fabrics teacher who has gone around the country to get information about quilting and bring it back to us."

In addition to the displays, there will be demonstrations, vendors, craft tables and a Kids Corner where youngsters will learn how to cut out fabric for designing. Food and beverages also will be available.

"The first year we served hot dogs, then we had chicken wraps, it will be a surprise to see what they have this year," said Strebbling.

There also will be a Quilt Challenge, with quilters asked to bring finishes 9-by-9-inch squares that will be used to make quilts for veterans at the VA Hospital. The block can be any decorative or quilted square.

Admission is \$2, and proceeds from the show will help fund next year's event as well allow the Grange to adopt a child at the Michigan School for the Deaf during the holidays.

Strebbling added that people who want to volunteer to help can call Smith at (734) 398-5190.

"When we started this, I had three volunteers helping, now we have so many people," she said. "That includes a young man who built us racks so they won't tip over on us."

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## Description leads to arrests for credit card theft

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two men, one from Canton and the other from Plymouth, have been arrested by Westland police for using a credit card reported stolen April 20 from a Livonia McDonald's Restaurant.

An ethnic description provided for one suspect helped officers track down the two men.

The incident began when a Westland man said that his wallet was lost or stolen at the restaurant on Farmington Road near Seven Mile. The man said he called to cancel a credit card around 10 p.m. and was told that someone had tried to use it earlier at the BP gas station at Wayne and Warren roads.

The man went to the gas station, he said, where he talked to the clerk who reported a young man had tried to use the card. The suspect gave the clerk the victim's driver's license along with the card telling him it was his father's identification. The clerk wasn't buying it and didn't let the man use the credit card.

The gas station clerk told the detective that the suspect had pur-

chased two cartons of cigarettes using a credit card, then attempted to make a second purchase exceeding \$100. That's when the clerk said he asked for identification and stopped the sale.

The suspect and a second man left with the victim's wallet, identification and credit card, the clerk told police. The clerk described the suspects as regular customers.

On April 26, the victim called police and reported being contacted by a man who said he had found the missing wallet and its contents. The caller wanted to arrange a return of the items. The Westland man said someone he believed to be a messenger returned the wallet contents except one credit card and the wallet itself.

The victim had the caller's telephone number, listed to a Canton man. The officer called the Canton man, who told the officer he knew the two men and would have them come to see the officer.

The officer obtained a mugshot of the Canton man and recognized him as the suspect shown on the gas station surveillance video using the credit card.

Later on April 26, the Canton

man, 20, and a Plymouth man, 22, came into the station. The Plymouth man works at the McDonald's where the wallet was lost. He told the officer that another customer turned in the wallet but instead of contacting the customer or turning the wallet in, he decided that he and the Canton man should use the credit cards.

The Canton man told the officer he agreed with that account of the incident. He added that he had learned from a friend that police had his photo from the surveillance video.

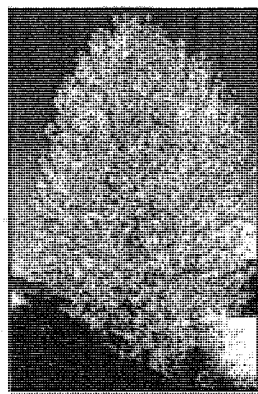
The gas station clerk had described the Canton man as being Albanian. As a result, an officer who knows several members of the local Albanian community showed the suspects' photographs to one of those individuals. That person said he didn't know the men but the Canton man heard about the photos. The clerk was correct in his description — the Canton man listed his birthplace as Albania.

Both men were charged with fraudulently using a credit card.

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# PUBLIC SAFETY

## Man makes off with \$4,800 diamond ring

**Larceny**  
A gold and diamond ring valued at \$4,800 was reported stolen in a snatch-and-grab from JB Robinson Jewelry, 35000 Warren Road, April 22.

The store manager told police that a man was looking at diamond rings through a glass display case. The manager said asked what the man was looking for but he didn't reply.

After asking the man several other questions to which he didn't respond, she said he finally asked about a \$6,500 diamond in an advertisement catalog which he had in his hand. The employee said she told him the store didn't have that particular ring but took another ring from the display to show him.

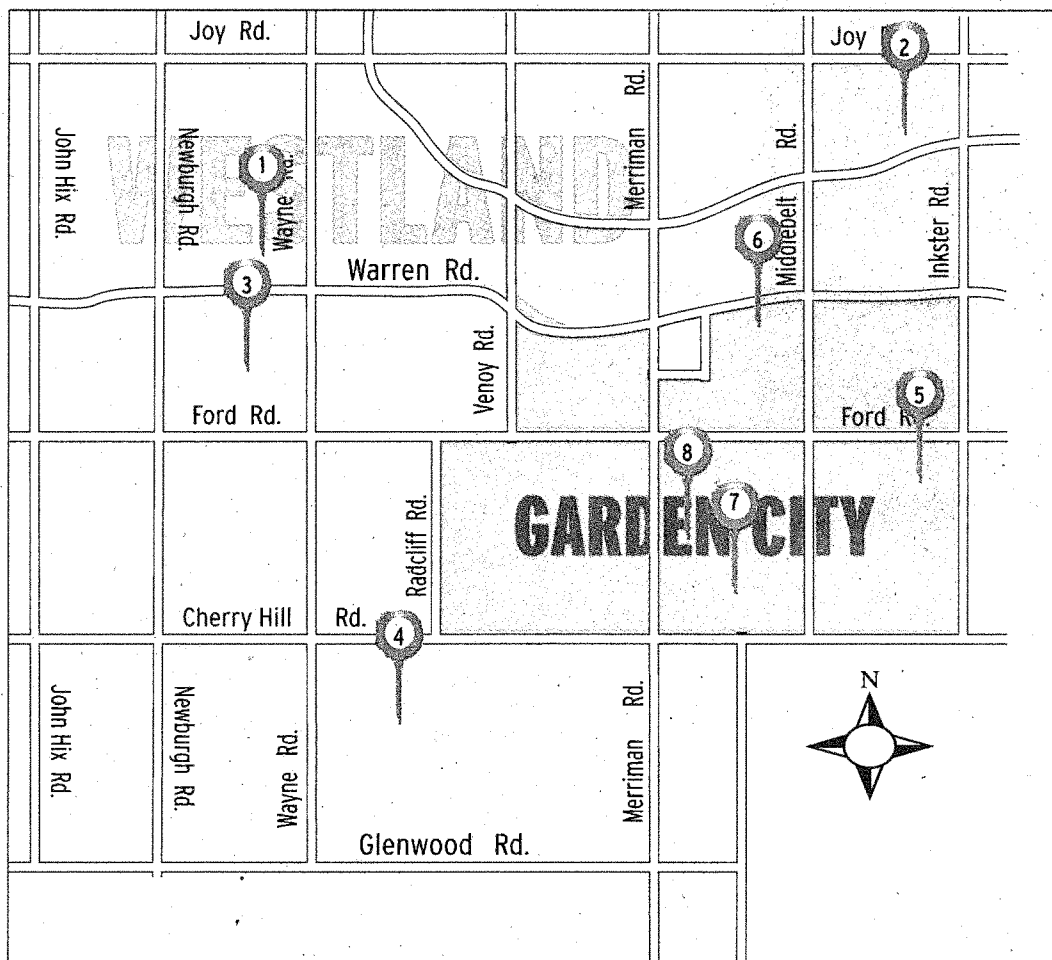
The man grabbed the ring, she said, ran from the store and south down the corridor to leave the mall. The ring was described as a 14 karat gold ring with a .96 carat round diamond.

### Stolen vehicle

A truck and trailer valued at \$13,000 were reported stolen from a home in the 28000 block of Ann Arbor Trail April 25. The owner told police the 2004 Ford SRW Super Duty pickup truck and the white Haulmark utility trailer had been parked in the driveway the night before but were gone in the morning. The owner said he was current on the payments and had the keys.

### Home invasion

A resident of an apartment at 6770 Lakeview told



police April 22 that someone had entered through a rear sliding door and had stolen his 42-inch flat screen television valued at \$400. The officer noted pry marks on the sliding door.

### Vehicle damaged

Damage was set at \$800 after damage was reported to a motor home and a car parked in the 900 block of South Wildwood April 20. Sometime over the previous two days, the owner said someone had smashed the running lights above the windshield and cracked a body pillar next to the driver's door on the motor home. The Mercury Marquis had a cracked grill.

The owner told police he hadn't had trouble with anyone in the neighborhood but added that teenagers roam the streets at all hours of the night. The

resident said this was the third vandalism report he had filed in seven months.

### Vandalism

On April 25, a resident in the 34000 block of Barton told police April 22 that someone had smashed the rear window of a vehicle with a landscaping brick. The owner said that he and his wife had heard a loud bang outside about 10:30 p.m., then discovered the damage in the morning.

Damage to 1994 Volvo station wagon was estimated at \$1,000.

A resident of Warris Farms Apartments, 37155 McKinney, told police April 22 that someone scratched all four doors of her 2009 Dodge Journey, put a small dent in the driver's door and stolen the oil cap. She said she had no idea who had done the damage.

### Attempted break-in

On April 25, a resident in the 1500 block of Regene told police that he and his family returned from being away for the weekend to find someone tried to break into the house. The rear kitchen window was broken out and a pitchfork was lying in the broken glass. The screen had also been removed from the window and was laying on the grass. It did not appear that anyone had gotten inside the home.

Also on April 25, a resident of an apartment at 37744 Willow Lane told police that someone had tried to enter her locked apartment. The officer noted someone had broken off a key in the dead bolt and tried to pry the door open, damaging the wood.

-By LeAnne Rogers

## 3 arrested for tossing firebomb

### Men arrested

The police arrested three Garden City men in their early 20s in connection with tossing a firebomb at the back of a car parked in the 2070 block of Deering about 1 a.m. April 22.

The men were apprehended following a traffic stop at Windsor and Burnly.

The police confiscated a homemade concoction, consisting of a glass bottle half filled with gasoline with a rag used for a wick which had been lit on one end.

There was no information about damage to the vehicle.

### Stolen truck

A resident in the 28900 block of Bridge reported that his unlocked truck was stolen sometime before 5:45 a.m. April 22 from his driveway.

The 46-year-old owner said that his retirement papers and his wife's Social Security number were inside of the truck along with a set of keys.

The police report said that a neighbor's vehicle showed fresh damage believed to have been caused when the thieves stole the truck.

The police were approached by a 67-year-old Garden City man who said that he observed two younger males wearing light-colored hoodies who had been checking vehicle doors on the street. He said that he saw these men near this resident's truck before it was stolen.

He said that after he heard a loud crash he observed that the pickup had crashed into a stop sign on eastbound Cambridge.

Later in the day, Garden City Department of Public Services employees spotted the vehicle at Kathryn and Inkster and confronted the occupants, who fled. The police were called.

The Wayne County prosecutor denied charges for the two men,

according to Police Chief Bob Muery.

"The prosecutor felt that we couldn't prove guilty knowledge," Muery said. "We couldn't prove that the two guys in the truck knew that they were in a stolen truck. Each claimed that the vehicle was given to them by someone else and they had legitimate access to it."

The truck was in good shape when returned to the resident, he said.

### Home invasion

Someone stole a TV and a coin collection from a home in the 3040 Block of Brown April 26.

The residents reported that someone bent the door to gain entry but the door jamb wasn't damaged. The sliding door was twisted, according to the police report.

### Stolen car

A Garden City man reported that someone stole the Ford Freestyle which was parked in front of his house in the 31200 block of Florence.

A purse was left on the front seat.

The car contained numerous items including \$400 worth of soccer and baseball equipment.

### Theft

A woman reported that someone stole her joint income tax check sometime during a confirmation ceremony April 20 at St. Raphael Church on Beechwood, west of Merriman.

She noticed that her keys were outside of her purse which she left on a pew but didn't realize the check was stolen from the purse until later.

Someone stole a GPS unit from a car parked in the 33200 block of Brown about 9:30 p.m. April 22.

The asphalt shattered the driver's side window.

-By Sue Buck

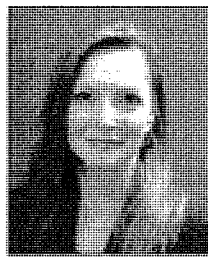
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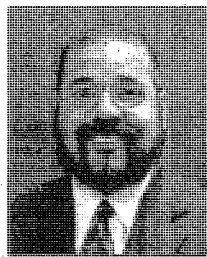
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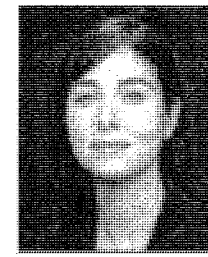
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### Wish You Were Here

Katie Hearn, who is studying abroad, and her mother Carole Nutt pose with their Garden City Observer in Nice along the Mediterranean coastline for Wish You Were Here. After a tour of shops, outdoor cafes, market and castle ruins in Nice, they flew to Paris for a tour of such famous monuments as the Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffel Tower. If you go on vacation, be sure to take a picture with your Observer and send it to Sue Mason, 615 W. Lafayette, Second Level, Detroit, MI 48226 or by e-mail at smason@hometownlife.com. Be sure to include your name and information about your photo.

# Habitat for Humanity hosts Women's Build Day

BY LEANNE ROGERS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The women will be picking up the tools and paint brushes as Westland hosts a Habitat for Humanity Women's Build Wednesday through Sunday, May 5-9.

"The last time we had a Women's Build was over nine years. This is also our first ground up build in Westland," said Alice Dent, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Western Wayne County.

While the project on Donnelly has technically already broken ground, there will be an official groundbreaking 10 a.m. Thursday, May 6. Westland Mayor William Wild and council members have volunteered to take part in project.

Along with donating their time to help construct affordable housing, Dent said the project is aimed at getting women interested in construction.

"Men are already interested in building. This really makes women want to be more involved and stay involved," said Dent.

National Women Build Week challenges women to devote at least one day to the effort to eliminate poverty housing. The event is an initiative of Habitat for Humanity's Women Build Program, underwritten by Lowe's, which locally sponsored two skills clinics for women.

Habitat for Humanity schedules volunteers for different shifts and several crew leaders will be on site to provide supervision and direction. There will be a variety of opportunities available for volunteers, even those who may have physical limitations.

"You just need a good heart and compassion. Someone could help sign in the volunteers for different build

## Liberty Hill seeks volunteers for Spring Fling fund-raiser

Put on your work clothes and grab your tools as Liberty Hill Housing Corporation hosts their third annual Spring Fling fund-raising event.

Dozens of volunteers will work on sprucing up two Liberty Hill homes in Westland and Wayne Monday through Friday, May 10-14. The renovations will include landscaping, painting, electrical upgrades, new doors and windows.

Liberty Hill is non-profit organization that purchases single family homes and leases them to people with developmental disabilities as well as assist with new home purchases.

"This is a great partnership between Liberty Hill and several volunteer groups and sponsors to help people see what it's like first hand to have their house turned into a home," said Liberty Hill Executive Director Peggy Frankie. "Last year we had a great turnout from volunteers

and sponsors and that's what we're hoping for again this year."

So far donors that have signed on include Ford Motor Company, Bank of America, National City/PNC Bank and O'Brien Construction. Liberty Hill is hoping to raise \$75,000 for materials and labor to complete the renovations.

The renovations will be done 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 12, at 4220 Randolph, Wayne, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, May 14, at 34681 Hazelwood, Westland.

Liberty Hill currently owns and leases almost 100 single-family homes located in communities across Wayne County. For more information, log onto its website at [www.libertyhillhousing.com](http://www.libertyhillhousing.com).

For more information about donating to the project, contact Frankie at (734) 722-4980 or by e-mail at [pfrankie@libertyhillhousing.com](mailto:pfrankie@libertyhillhousing.com).

## Federal law protects from debt collector excesses

There is no doubt that in the current economic situation many people, particularly those in southeast Michigan, are having difficulties paying their debts.

Unfortunately, many people have had to make hard decisions as to which debt to pay. The result is many people are being contacted by debt collectors either by the company that is owed the money or private debt collection companies. Although most people who have not paid their debts are being treated properly, there are some who have been harassed by debt collectors.

Many people are under the mistaken belief that since they owe they have no recourse in dealing with the debt collectors. Not true. Even if there is no issue that the underlying debt is correct, debt collectors cannot harass you. You have rights.

Under the federal Fair Debt Collection Act, debtors have rights. However, in order to enforce them you have to be proactive. Therefore, if you are in a situation where you feel that a debt collector is threatening or harassing, you need to exercise your right.

I encourage everybody to pay their debts and if they cannot, to work with creditors on a resolution. However, the fact that you do not pay does not give creditors and debt collectors the right to run wild.

Like all federal laws, the Fair Debt Collection Act is somewhat cryptic and difficult to understand. However, there are many places consumers can go to learn more about their rights. One place is [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov). In addition, there is

a lot of information on the Internet.

Although it is impossible to discuss the entire act in this column, there are certain things that debt collectors are forbidden to do. For example, unless you agree otherwise, a debt collector can only contact you between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. If a debt collector is contacting you after 9 p.m. they are in violation of the law. In addition, a debt collector cannot contact you at work or contact your neighbors, friends or family.

Debt collectors are also forbidden to claim they are attorneys (if they are not) or that they work for the government. Neither can a debt collector claim that he/she works for a credit reporting company or by failing to pay your debt you've committed a crime.

I've heard stories where debt collectors claim that if you do not pay the debt they can assess you with interest or additional fees. They cannot. Unless the original contract that deals with the underlying debt allows this, there are forbidden to assess additional fees.

Many people are saying so what. If they violate my rights what can I do. I am already in

debt, therefore, I cannot afford to hire an attorney to enforce my rights. This is where the law helps individuals. Under the Fair Debt Collections Act, if an attorney does take a case and the debtor wins in court, the debt collector must pay your attorney fees. Because of this, more attorneys are starting to specialize in this type of litigation.

If you are harassed or threatened there are attorneys that will take your case knowing that they will be able to collect fees from the collection companies. Last year, there was a 60 percent increase from 2008 on the number of federal lawsuits filed claiming violations of the Fair Debt Collections Act. The bottom line is you have rights and they are enforceable.

If you need the name of an attorney who can handle cases regarding the Fair Debt Collections Act, do not hesitate to contact me.

Good luck!



Money Matters

Rick Bloom

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at [money-matters@hometownlife.com](mailto:money-matters@hometownlife.com). For more information, visit his Web site at [www.bloomassetmanagement.com](http://www.bloomassetmanagement.com).

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# LOCAL OPINION

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## OUR VIEWS

### Vote for Goci, yes on school renewal in W-W

On Tuesday, May 4, voters in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools will make two important decisions. They will decide who should represent their interests by filling a four-year term on the school board. They also will decide if the district should continue to levy its 18-mill nonhomestead property tax.

In the school board race, incumbent John Goci of Westland is being challenged by Karen Wilkie of Wayne for a four-year term on the school board. Both candidates voice concern about the future of the district and the decisions being made.

However, after interviewing both candidates and reviewing their responses to our written questions, we believe **John Goci** should be re-elected to the school board.

Goci has done well during his first year on the school board. He has shown himself to be a man of his word and stands by his commitment to the children and to seeing that they get the best education. He is not afraid to vote no — as in the closing of six elementary schools and seeking concessions from employees to trim \$19 million from the district budget.

There is room on the school board for someone like Goci who will ask questions to bring to light information that he believes residents need to know. He provides an alternative view and a voice to residents who believe they are not being heard by the board.

However, if re-elected, we would like to see Goci be more involved. It's easy to say you don't agree; the hard part is offering constructive alternatives. We have yet to see the latter from Goci.

We also urge voters to **yes** on the renewal of the 18-mill nonhomestead tax levy. It's a win-win situation. The district will continue to receive the \$19.5 million the tax raises and it won't cost primary homeowners a single penny.

Renewal of the nonhomestead tax is a quirk of Proposal A. It is the one piece of the legislation that requires voter approval. Unlike the six mills levied statewide on primary residences, the nonhomestead tax is paid by the owners of commercial, industrial and some personal property. If it isn't renewed the district would have to make drastic cuts to balance its budget.

That said, we urge voters to re-elect **John Goci** to the school board and vote **YES** on the 18-mill nonhomestead tax renewal in the Tuesday, May 4, school election.

### Re-elect King to LPS board May 4

Voters will choose between two candidates May 4 to fill a seat on the Livonia school board — incumbent Steve King and challenger Mark Johnson.

We encourage voters to re-elect **Steve King** to another four-year term.

Every board needs a dissident, and King has served that role well. He is the one board member most likely to express the opposing viewpoint and question the status quo. Often, he is the only one to vote no on an issue — although sometimes he is joined by Trustee Patrice Mang.

Some people call that negativity. But we think King's role on the board is healthy and helps lead to good governance. King isn't always right — sometimes the "facts" he cites are debatable — but he isn't always wrong either. And, some of the issues he battles other board members over aren't as relevant as others.

There are times King carries his dissident role too far. He needs to be less divisive and look for common agreement where he can. But he represents a segment of the electorate that otherwise feels unrepresented on the board. And, he has gained valuable experience in his first term, including learning how to more appropriately respond to those who disagree with his views.

We think King fills an important role on the board and is the stronger, more qualified candidate.

## COMMUNITY VOICE

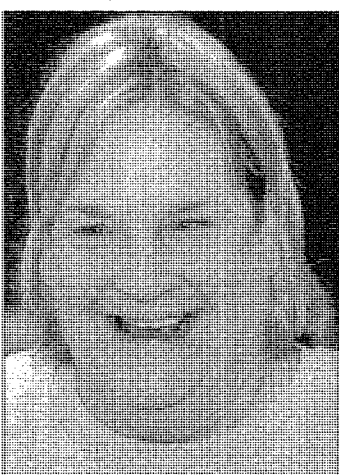
### What do you think about the statewide smoking ban in bars, restaurants and other workplaces?

We asked this question at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City.



"I'm a reformed smoker, so I have to say yeah. It's nice not to be reminded of smoking."

Nancy Camp  
Westland



"I love it, I think it's a very good idea."

Pam Hixson  
Livonia



"I think it's wonderful because I don't like to smell like cigarettes when I walk out of a restaurant — and I used to be a smoker."

Donna Novak  
Garden City



"I think it's wonderful. I think it's great. It's about time Michigan did this."

Jane McGowan  
Garden City

## LETTERS

### Keep our city, children safe

Mayor Wild, I want to commend you on your outstanding leadership and thank you for always supporting our community events.

The greatest thing about living in the city of Westland is our sense of community. For me, a strong community is an environment where families come together in a safe and wholesome way and fellowship. Westland has provided that for me and my girls and gave us the sense of community we had so longed for.

As you know, I have been a resident here in Westland for 10 years, but what you did not know before moving from the east side of Detroit, I experienced three home invasions, armed robbery at gunpoint with a 9mm held to my head and a car jacking. Safety was my No. 1 concern for my family and me so we did our research and moved to Westland. It took the longest time to convince my girls that we were safe in Westland and no one was going to come through our back door again.

Mayor Wild, you personally met and know the girls and you know as a mother this was the hardest thing any parent should have to go through.

What I continue to tell everyone I meet and know my reasoning for loving our city is because I feel safe, the hands-on relationship with you and your administrators and the sense of community (family). I love my city and I love my girls feeling safe.

I know with the economy shifting gears and the lack of funds needed to run our city as effective as you would like, there comes budget cuts. As a business owner, I understand we must make adjustment where needed. However, I also know the consequences of those cuts, if made improperly.

I am aware our police department is being looked at to make adjustments and I have seen on the news various cities are looking at reducing their police department and/or cutting it out all together. When I think of my childhood and the fears growing up on the east side of Detroit and the personal invasions I have experienced as an adult, I find it a bit scary to even consider making cuts in the area I feel we need most and that's security. I need to feel that security not only for

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

We welcome your Letter to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content. Submit letters via the following formats. Web: www.hometownlife.com E-mail: smason@hometownlife.com Blog: You may also let your opinions be heard with your own blog at hometownlife.com. Deadline: Letters must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be published in the Thursday edition.

me, but for my family as well.

I can recall an incident when a drug dealer moved next to me here in Westland Meadows. I called Chief Pfannes and spoke with him directly. Chief Pfannes set up a sting operation and within one week the drug activities were gone. This is one of many reasons why I love my city because someone cared enough for my family's safety and me that they had to make a difference.

Mayor Wild, D.A.R.E. has played and intricate part in my daughter's safety. It is Officer Kline's direct teaching that gave my girls awareness of the dangers/consequences of using drugs. My girls often state that because of the classes and what they learned, they would never use drugs and because my sister recently died from alcoholism, the girls says now they no for certain they would never use drugs.

I often tell the children when I teach them, if I can touch one person and make a difference than my labor was not in vain. I know Officer Kline's labor was not in vain because not only did he touch one person's life, he touched and made a difference in an entire family. The girls know the indicators of drugs and because it touched so closely to home they were able to see the harsh consequences of it.

Mayor Wild, as you are making administrative cuts, please remember my story — a

family that needed to know they were in a good community and felt safe. My family loves it here and we want to continue the same quality of life that we have always had. If I need to raise money to maintain D.A.R.E. and part of the officers' salaries, I will do it. Just tell me what I need to do. In the meantime, I will continue to pray for God's wisdom in you and that you continue to lead our city as God directs your footsteps. Continued blessings on you and your team!

Juanita Francis  
Westland

### Dreams do come true

I just wanted to say dreams do come true. My dear friend, Karen Newman, introduced me to me hero, Rock'n'Roll Hall of Famer Bob Seger. It was a dream come true. He was so nice. Karen knew I was nervous. She told me to seize the moment and I did.

I met Bob in 1974 at the old Rock and Roll Farm, now it's the US-12. I was asking the guy at the door how much it would mean to me to meet him. He said there was nothing he could do, but he pointed to the guy behind me. I turned and it was Bob Seger. I had my 45 record for him to sign and I talked to him for about an hour. I helped the band carry in all the equipment and then forgot to get it signed.

My friend, Karen Newman, introduced me to my hero, and Bob's wife, Nita, took the pic of me and Bob. Dreams do come true. A lifetime of waiting and wishing and it finally happened. I was so nervous; he was great. And I have grown to love Karen. She has been so good to me over the years.

I am so happy, I will treasure the moment forever. And for Karen Newman as a friend, what a feeling. I have met thousands of famous people — presidents, Hall of Famers, etc. — and have only been nervous for two of them, Nolan Ryan (named my first son Ryan) and meeting Bob Seger. My life is complete.

Bud Somerville  
Westland

## Land deals that offer a place to die for

We all know that piece of property we are just dying to acquire: A place we spend our entire life working and saving for; a place to kick back and make our final resting spot.



Tom Watkins

But today, many of us are experiencing that sinking feeling with the value of our properties dropping like a trap door being pulled open. Hard-working people across the state and nation are losing their homes to foreclosures because of the implosion of our economy resulting in both job and home losses while values continue to plummet. It truly is a sinking feeling whether it is happening to you or watching it happen to family and friends. It is just not a good feeling to see home values drop from between 25-30 percent. You might have noticed that people who have lost their homes have that gaunt, dead-man-walking appearance.

Clearly those with a steady job, a decent income and a substantial sum of cash for a down payment might be lucky enough to find a lender, so now might be a good time to buy. My daddy always told me "buy low, sell high." Now property is as low as six feet under.

Foreclosures, bank-owned properties, people "underwater" in their mortgage and walking away from their homes — the sheer number of properties listed today makes it a sad and tragic time for distressed sellers, but also one of the hottest buyers' markets in recent history.

Opportunity is all around us. Although I'm not necessarily in the market to buy new property, this is a heavenly deal, I thought.

As I opened my mailbox recently and pulled out the real estate value of the century, it occurred to me, "This is my lucky day!" Right here in my hands is one hell of a deal — a piece of property to die for!

It was an idyllic plot, a real estate price rolled back to 2001! "It sits on 46 acres of unique, pastoral, park like setting ... a place

that "protects family heritage ... and "eternal beauty." The place sounded heavenly!

The advertisement lured me further by pointing out: "making decisions together about important life events is just plain smart." It went on: "Everyone knows that planning for future health needs, living arrangements and retirement, makes those inevitable transitions easier and more comfortable." "Sign me up!" I screamed.

This was clearly a long-term investment, a piece of property that I would not occupy immediately but, would always be there for me, located in the diverse, growing community of Canton and being offered at a bargain basement 2001 price.

A lot that offers peace, serenity and solitude, a community with such a peaceful name: Knollwood Memorial Park Cemetery.

Look around your community for one of these everlasting places. Hey, a deal is a deal! An everlasting one at that!

Tom Watkins of Northville is a business and educational consultant.

### WESTLAND OBSERVER



Sue Mason  
Community  
Editor

Susan Rosiek  
Executive Editor  
/ Publisher

Grace Perry  
Director of  
Advertising

AROUND WESTLAND

Skills Camp

The Basketball Academy is holding its Summer Skill Development camps at St. Damian School on Joy Road in Westland.

Good eats

Bring your appetite to Café Marquette at the William D. Ford Career Technical Center for dinner Wednesday, May 5, or for lunch Thursday, May 6, and help a student.

center is at 36455 Marquette, west of Wayne Road, Westland.

Constituent hours

The staff of U.S. Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, will hold office hours in several locations in May.

The Tuesday, May 4, office hours are 9-10 a.m. at Livonia Civic Park Senior Center, 10:30-11:30 a.m. at the Redford Community Center, 1-2 p.m. at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Westland senior Friendship Center.

The congressman has two offices in Livonia and Milford the district to serve constituents. The Livonia office can be reached by calling (734) 632-

0314 and the Milford office is available at (248) 685-9495. Comments of a political nature should be directed to the closest office.

Historic Village

Hear re-enactors from five different American wars as the Westland Historical Commission and Historical Commission host the third annual Armed Forces Day Celebration 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 8, at Westland Historic Village Park.

Admission is free and refreshments will be available. On Saturday, May 15, the Westland Garden Club will host their Spring Plant Exchange 9 a.m. to noon at the park.

Learn to play

Challenge yourself to learn the exciting fingerpicking styles of Paul McCartney's

Blackbird, Jethro Tull's Thick as a Brick, and Green Day's, Wake Me Up When September Ends. These songs are great fun to play.

The three-week class will be offered 7-8:30 p.m. beginning Wednesday, May 5, at the Bailey Recreation Center. It is open to anyone age 16 years and older.

Buddy Poppies

VFW Post 9885 will be holding their annual Buddy Poppy sales Thursday through Saturday, May 6-8. Look for post members at Ford and Hix, Ford and Newburgh, Newburgh and Warren Road and Newburgh and Wayne Road throughout the sale days.

Money raised through the poppy sales goes to veterans assistance programs.

GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Figure skaters

The Garden City figure skaters will take the ice for their annual show 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, May 6-8, at the Civic Arena in City Park.

Tickets at the door for children 12 and under and seniors 62 and over are \$4. Adults 13-61 are \$5.

Four Plus program

The Garden City Public Schools is looking children who will turn age four by Dec. 1, 2010 and who may be eligible for free Four Plus preschool program.

Housed at Lathers Elementary School, the readiness program gives preschoolers the tools to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Four Plus is funded through a Great Start Readiness Program grant from the state of Michigan.

as a full-time classroom aide. Transportation and healthy snacks also are provided.

Parents interested in finding out if their children qualify for Four Plus must fill out a survey available at the school, 28351 Marquette. Parents can enter the school through the Sheridan doors.

For more information, call (734) 762-8490.

Rummage sale

Good Hope Lutheran Church, 28680 Cherry Hill in Garden City, is holding its annual rummage sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 29, and Friday, April 30.

For more information, call (734) 427-3660.

Shop online

Help Garden City Schools support its staff and students whenever you shop at Amazon.com.

Simply follow the link at the bottom of the district's Web site — www.gardencityschools.com. A portion of any resulting purchases will be returned to Garden City Public Schools.

CITY OF WESTLAND SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES

Presiding: President Godbout Present: Bryant, Hammons, Johnson, Kadi, Kehrer, Reeves 84: Appr.: minutes of regular meeting held 04/05/10.

James Godbout Eileen DeHart Council President City Clerk, CMC

GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT 6000 MIDDLEBELT GARDEN CITY, MI 48135

The following vehicles have been deemed abandoned and will be sold at public auction on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

Table with columns: YEAR & MAKE, STYLE, VIN #. Rows include 1993 FORD, 1996 FORD, 1994 DODGE, 2000 BUICK, 1998 BUICK.

Check us out on the Web every day at hometownlife.com

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Pursuant to state law a sale will be held at: Secured Self Storage, 2460 Gully Rd., Dearborn Hgts, MI, May 8, 2010 @ 1:05 PM.

#203 Andry Zabinska #1045 Katrina Maiale

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Livonia May 5, 2010 June 3, 2010 Southfield May 19, 2010 June 16, 2010

Doris Biscoe, former TV News Anchor, may personally attend some of these workshops.

A sales representative will be present with information and applications. To reserve your space at one of HAP's free workshops or for accommodation of persons with special needs at sales meetings, call toll-free at (800) 449-1515 or TDD (800) 956-4325, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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\*Based on the Summary Rating of Overall Health Plan Quality awarded by the federal Medicare program (2008-2009 data).

†Paid Spokesperson, Doris Biscoe, is a member of a HAP non-Medicare Plan.

HAP Senior Plus (HMO) and Alliance Medicare PPO are health plans with a Medicare contract. Alliance Medicare Rx (PDP) is a stand-alone Prescription Drug Plan with a Medicare contract.

NOTICE TO CUT NOXIOUS WEEDS

To the owner or occupant or any person or persons, firm or corporation having charge of any land in the City of Westland:

(APPENDIX A)

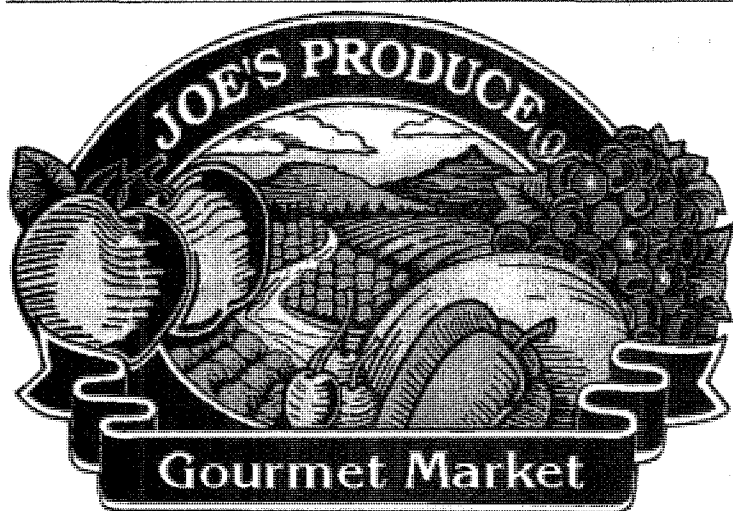
2009 PRIVATE WEEDS

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COVINGTON WEST
MARLEE WOODS
NEWBERRY ESTATE
NEWBERRY ESTATE
VALLEY VIEW

Notice is hereby given that all noxious weeds growing on any land in the City of Westland, Wayne County, Michigan, must be destroyed on or before the 15th and 30th days throughout the months of May, June, July, August, September and October of 2010.

Kevin L. Buford Director, Department of Public Service City of Westland www.kbuford@cityofwestland.com



# Remember Mom . . . . Sunday, May 9th

Pick up the perfect gift for Mother's Day at Joe's Produce Gourmet Market! Come take a look at our amazing selections of hanging baskets, bedding plants, porch pots, garden accessories, gift baskets and of course . . . the freshest flowers available. Every bloom and basket is hand-picked for beauty & quality.



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## DELI

<b>Boarshead Tavern Ham</b> <b>\$6.99</b> lb. Save \$2.00 lb.	<b>Dietz &amp; Watson Gourmet Lite Turkey</b> <b>\$6.99</b> lb. Save \$2.00 lb.	<b>Sahlen's Smokehouse Ham, Oven Roasted Turkey &amp; Honey Maple Turkey</b> <b>\$4.99</b> lb. Save \$4.00 lb.	<b>Gouda Holland Cheese</b> <b>\$5.99</b> lb. Save \$2.00 lb.
<b>Boarshead Everroast Chicken</b> <b>\$5.99</b> lb. Save \$3.00 lb.	<b>Dietz &amp; Watson Honey BBQ Chicken</b> <b>\$6.99</b> lb. Save \$3.00 lb.	<b>Muenster Cheese</b> <b>\$2.99</b> lb. Save \$2.00 lb.	<b>Joe's Mustard &amp; Regular Potato Salad</b> <b>\$1.99</b> lb. Save \$1.00 lb.

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<b>Andiamo's Pasta Sauce</b> <b>\$6.99</b> each Celebrating Andiamo's 20th Anniversary Save \$1.50
<b>Bella Famiglia Pasta</b> <b>3/\$5.00</b> All Cuts
Everyday <b>GOURMET</b>
<b>Joe's Meatloaf</b> <b>\$4.99</b> lb. Save \$2.00 lb.
<b>Mini Quiche Florentine &amp; Mini Quiche Lorraine</b> <b>\$3.99</b> each
<b>Honey Pecan Chicken Salad</b> <b>\$4.99</b> lb.
<b>Smoked Gouda Pasta Salad</b> <b>\$4.99</b> lb. Save \$1.00 lb.

## BAKERY

<b>Joe's Strawberry Pie</b> <b>\$10.99</b> each! Only Made with Fresh Strawberries
<b>Strawberry Rhubarb Pie</b> <b>\$10.99</b> each
<b>Key Lime Raspberry Parfait</b> <b>\$2.49</b> each

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Stop by The Cafe and Order a Raspberry Smoothie <b>\$3.50</b> each Fruit and Delicious!
<b>WINE CELLAR</b>
<b>Bell's Oberon Ale</b> <b>\$9.99</b> + Dep. 6 pk.
<b>X Winery White X</b> <b>\$11.99</b> Blend of Sauvignon Blanc, Muscat Blanc, Chardonnay, Rousanne. A crisp and lively summer wine. What a better way to toast the sunshine?
<b>Aquinas Cabernet Sauvignon</b> <b>\$13.99</b> This cab has a dense red color with deep plum edges. The rich cassis, coffee and sweet leather aromas fold into a supple matrix of blueberry, blackberry and black currant. This wine is a natural choice with grilled rib eye steaks served with herb roasted carrots, parsnips and green beans.

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THURSDAY  
April 29,  
2010

SECTION B  
(WL)

Brad Emons, editor (313) 222-6851  
bemons@hometownlife.com

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with food fiesta -- Inside

SPORTS, ENTERTAINMENT, FOOD

# HOMETOWN LIFE



## 40th Observerland Relays appears wide open

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Handicapping Saturday's 40th running of the Observerland Boys Track and Field Relays is going to be as tough as finding a favorite after Eskendereya was scratched from the Kentucky Derby.

First, there's defending champion Novi-Detroit Catholic Central, which is gunning for its fifth Observerland title in the 15-school meet which will be hosted by Farmington High.

The Shamrocks, bolstered by their 2009 Division I state championship cross country team, will once again be a force to be reckoned with.

Last year's Observerland runner-up, Salem, appears to be another solid choice. But the Rocks took a back seat last week to Centennial

Educational Park rival Plymouth in the Bolger-Mangan Memorial City Meet.

The Wildcats were led by distance runners Warren Buzzard, Matt Neumann and Joe Porcari, along with hurdler Brandon Piligian.

Salem, meanwhile, will get a boost from its 4 x 400 relay team, which has already gone 3:27.3.

"I expect us to be in contention for first place in a number of events, but we would have to have a lot of things fall the right way for us to win the meet as a whole," Salem coach Kyle Meteyer said. "I think we can excel in the throwing relays, the 4 x 400, the high jump relay and a few others, but we've been hurt lately by injuries and discipline issues."

"The main contenders will be Catholic Central and Plymouth, I

believe. They're well-matched, especially in the distance events."

Farmington Hills Harrison is coming off a solid effort in winning the North Farmington Raider Relays, while Livonia Stevenson recently captured the Falcon Invitational at Birmingham Groves.

Livonia Churchill coach Rick Austin, now in his 16th year with the Chargers, has seen a few Observerlands in his time, going all the way back to his days as a prep hurdler at his alma mater.

"It looks like Plymouth and Salem have a great opportunity to win with their team depth," he said. "Don't count out Stevenson and a much-improved (Livonia) Franklin team, either. You've got to be able to score

### OBSERVERLAND RELAYS

**What:** 40th Observerland Boys Track & Field Relays.

**When:** Saturday, May 1. Field events begin at 3:30 p.m. Prelims for the 100-meter dash and 110 high hurdles begin at 6:30 p.m. Finals begin at 7 p.m.

**Where:** Farmington High School, 32000 Shiawassee (just east of Orchard Lake Road north of Grand River).

**Competing schools:** Farmington (host), Farmington Hills Harrison, Livonia Churchill, Livonia Franklin, Livonia Stevenson, Canton, Plymouth, Salem, Garden City, Redford Thurston, Redford Union, Westland John Glenn, Wayne Memorial, Northville, Novi-Detroit Catholic Central (defending champion).

**Open events:** 110-meter hurdles, 1,600 run, 100 dash.

**Relay events:** shot put, discus, pole vault, high jump, long jump; 6,400 relay (4x1,600), distance medley, 800, 3,200, sprint medley, shuttle hurdles, 400, 1,600.

**Admission:** \$5 adults, \$3 for students and seniors.

Please see **TRACK, B2**

## SIDELINES

### Dark Angels win

Former Livonia Ladywood High track and field standout Alexis Noel rushed for a 102 yards Saturday as the Detroit Dark Angels edged the host Toledo (Ohio) Reign, 7-6, in a Women's Football Alliance game.

The speedy Noel, who ran collegiately at West Virginia University, scored on a 32-yard touchdown run. Teammate Juanita Payne added 50 yards rushing.

Middle linebacker Yarlen Henry paced a stellar Dark Angels defense with 10 tackles, including two sacks, along with two forced fumbles and a fumble recovery. Henry also blocked a 27-yard Reign field goal attempt late in the fourth quarter to help seal the victory.

Most of the second half was played in a steady downpour.

The Dark Angels, now 1-1 in the WFA's North Central Division, return to action Saturday on the road against the Cleveland Fusion.

The Dark Angels' next home game is 7 p.m. Saturday, May 15, against the Dayton (Ohio) Diamonds at Westland John Glenn H.S.

### Troy stops Blazers

Emily Wayman scored six goals Friday as Troy downed host Livonia Ladywood in a girls lacrosse match, 19-12.

Senior Gaby Meyer led the Division 2 Blazers, who slipped to 2-3 overall, with four goals. Junior Alexa Burns added three.

Ladywood sophomore goalie Rana Frej made 21 saves, while Jennifer Studnicki had 14 stops for the Division 1 Colts.

### MU golfers 2nd

In their final tuneup before the 2010 NAIA National Championships on May 18 at TPC Deer Run in Silvis, Ill., the Madonna University men's golfers placed second and third, respectively, on Monday in the Cereal City Shootout held at the Battle Creek Country Club.

MU sent two squads to the 36-hole event with the runner-up Blue team scoring 309-317-626.

Jimmy Uelmen, third individually, paced the Blue team with back-to-back 77s for a 154 total. Other Blue scorers included Nick Sears, 77-80-157; Tommy Lucko (Livonia Churchill), 74-84-158; Brett Quitiquit, 81-76-158; Austin Stillman (Livonia Franklin), 86-85-171.

Kyle Lawrey (72-83-155) and Ronny Pollack, Jr. (80-75-155) led the Gold, which shot 326-323-649 over the two-day event.

Other Gold finishers included Steve South (Franklin), 83-79-162; Tyler Skiba, 82-86-168; and Tom Voyer, 82-90-172.

## Crusaders' White hits milestone

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

It never gets old for Al White.

The Madonna University women's softball coach reached the 400-win milestone Saturday as the first-place Crusaders rallied in the second game from three runs down to complete a sweep of a double-header from visiting Indiana Tech, 8-1 and 7-2.

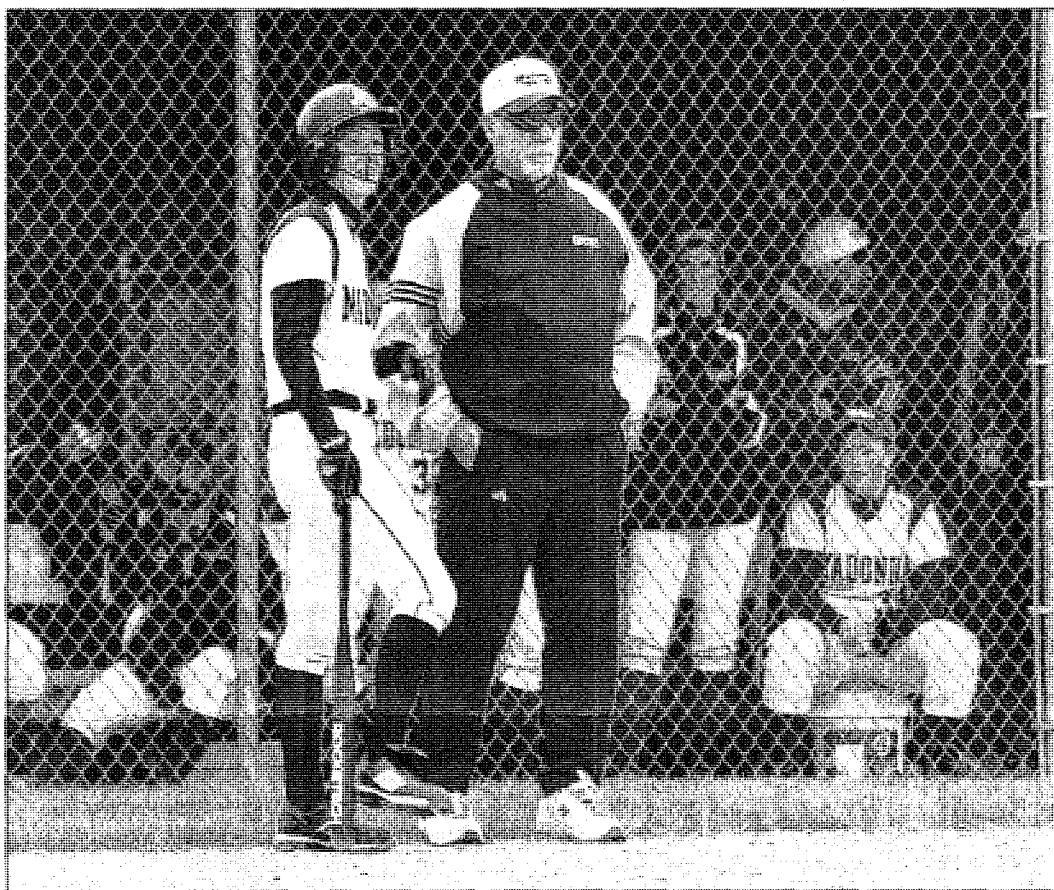
The soft-spoken West Virginia native has been the Crusaders' head coach since 1999 and has guided MU to 30-plus victories eight times including a record 53 wins and an NAIA National Tournament appearance last year.

He joins select coaching company at MU, with baseball's Greg Haeger recently joining 400-win club, while NAIA Hall of Fame volleyball coach Jerry Abraham cracked 900-win barrier.

"That's a lot, we were just talking about it," said White, whose team is 34-7 overall. "If you have mine and Haeger's together, we'd still fall short of Jerry (Abraham). He got his 900th, Haeger got his (400th), too. That's a pretty good year here at Madonna, my God."

White's 400th win came in dramatic fashion.

Starting pitcher Hallie Minch (Garden City) homered over the right field wall in the fourth inning to help spur the second-



Madonna University softball coach Al White, talking with first baseman Cat Sidor at the on-deck circle, notched his 400th career victory Saturday against Indiana Tech at University Field.

game comeback.

Rachael Kethe's lead-off single to start the sixth inning sparked a 4-run inning for the Crusaders as they capitalized on three Warrior errors to regain the lead.

Cat Sidor (Livonia Churchill) went 3-for-4 with an RBI to pace MU's 8-hit attack.

Minch went the first five innings, allowing four earned runs on eight hits.

Tech (31-18, 14-9) scored all

four of its runs in the third inning thanks to back-to-back homers from Jessica Williams and Jen Anderson.

Junior Jess Irwin pitched two

Please see **WHITE, B4**

## Stevenson RBI record falls in win

Senior Jeff Sorenson continued to rewrite the record book for the Livonia Stevenson baseball team as he set the all-time school record for runs batted in Monday as the Spartans clobbered visiting Wayne Memorial, 15-0, in a three-inning mercy.

Stevenson, now 10-1 overall and 5-1 in the KLA's Central Division, collected a total of 11 hits as Sorenson's 3-run homer brought his career total to 80 RBI.

Troy Bodtke went 3-for-3 with a double and four RBI, while winning pitcher Evan Piechota aided his own cause going 3-for-3 with an RBI.

Mark Wagner also knocked in a pair of runs, while Mike Vomastek went 2-for-2 with a double and two runs scored.

Tyler Lynch, Matt Shain and Brendan Hayes also knocked in runs for Stevenson.

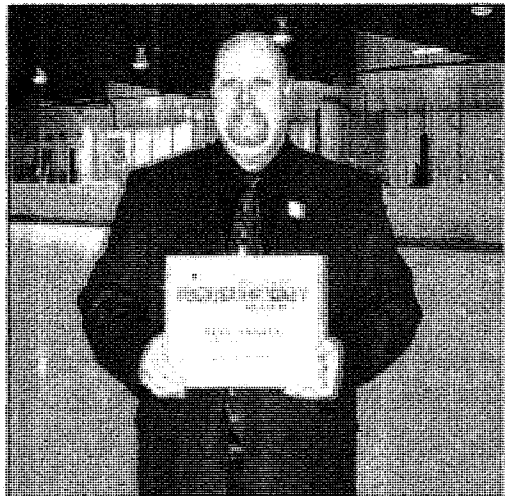
Piechota allowed just two

Please see **BASEBALL, B4**

### KLAA BASEBALL

## Hockey community rallies around coach with benefit

BY BRAD EMONS  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER



Tim Jason was named Coach of the Year by both Michigan Hockey and the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association in 2009.

Tim Jason yearns for the day when he can lace up his skates and go out on the ice again.

But for now, the accomplished 51-year-old youth hockey coach finds himself killing penalties, the victim of a rare disease which required his right leg to be amputated below his knee.

In 2009, Jason was named Coach of the Year by both Michigan Hockey and the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association after guiding the Livonia Kings Midget BB state championship. In 2006-07, the popular coach with the gift of gab guided the Kings to the Midget B state title.

But last November, Jason's world was turned upside down when his

right skate didn't quite fit properly and he lost feeling in one of his toes.

Five surgeries later, Jason is now being cast and fitted for a prosthetic leg. And following his most recent operation (March 15) at Ann Arbor's St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, the self-employed electrician is determined to get back on his feet.

"It's a vascular disease that is hereditary, it causes the arteries to harden and I had blockage to my main artery," Jason said. "I've been to hell and I hate to see anybody go through what I've gone through. Once a day I get angry and I go through all the whys?"

"But as bad as it is, it can be worse and it can be fixed. I'm 50 and I still have a full life. Things are turning around and things are going forward, and we'll make it work."

To help with his ongoing medical expenses, Jason's sisters-in-law, Deanna Cervenian and Donna Rusicia, have rallied their families, friends and the local hockey community around the coach.

They will stage the Tim Jason Bowling Benefit on Sunday, May 2, at Oak Lanes, located at 8450 Middlebelt (between Joy Road and Ann Arbor Trail), in Westland.

Check-in is at 1 p.m. and bowling starts at 2 p.m. The cost is \$20 per person and it includes two games, shoes and pizza. There will also be a 50-50 drawing and raffle tickets will be sold.

"The response has been overwhelming," Cervenian said. "We have about

Please see **JASON, B4**



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# Spartans second as Johnson shines

**BY BRAD EMONS**  
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Despite falling to Wyandotte 1-0 in the finals Saturday of the Monroe Jefferson girls softball tournament, Livonia Stevenson coach Rob Witherspoon came away encouraged by his team's performance.

The Spartans stand 8-6 overall after winning three of four high-lighted by Jacqueline Johnson's near perfect game against Dearborn Heights Annapolis in the opener.

"Johnson looked better than

ever today," Witherspoon said. "She had excellent control and even better movement. I am very excited about how our team in beginning to gel, and as soon as we can find some consistency in the field, we will surprise some teams."

Wyandotte scored an unearned run in the fourth inning to take the title thanks to a pair of Stevenson errors followed by Sarah Fisher's game-winning single.

Winning pitcher Madison Brewer allowed just four hits in seven innings. She struck out four and did not allow a walk.

Johnson, meanwhile, struck out

seven, walked one and allowed only four hits in six innings.

Sarah Fier and Katie Bone both doubled.

In the semifinals, Stevenson downed Dearborn Heights Crestwood, 5-3, as Nina Bonanno, Becca Koesterling and Allie Koesterling each had two hits.

Morgan Copperstone, the winning pitcher, went 5.1 innings, allowing three runs on seven hits and five walks. She struck out four. Ashley Avery picked up the save.

In the second round, Johnson threw another game on a 1-hitter as Stevenson pounded Allen Park

with 15 hits in a 7-1 triumph.

Johnson fanned 12 and walked only two.

Top hitters for the Spartans included Avery (3-for-4, double, RBI); Bonanno (2-for-4, double, triple, four RBI); Molly Knoph (2-for-4, RBI) and Shelbie Wilson (2-for-4).

Johnson struck out 16 in the tourney opener as Stevenson beat Dearborn Heights Annapolis in a six-inning mercy, 10-0.

Becca Zarras went 2-for-3 with a homer, double and three RBI to pace a 13-hit Stevenson attack. Wilson went 2-for-4 and also homered.

# 1st-place MU takes 3-of-4 from Saints

The No. 14-ranked Madonna University baseball team used a pair of solid pitching performances and 17 runs to sweep its Monday double-header against Aquinas College by finals of 11-0 (five innings) and 6-0 at Wyoming's Kimble Field to take the season series 3-1.

Senior Kyle Bolton (6-0) threw a 3-hitter, striking out three in the opener while sophomore Tom Hansen (4-1) matched Bolton's effort, throwing a 6-hit shutout in the nightcap.

Senior Zach Flavin and junior Tarik Khasawneh (Canton) both hit home runs. It was Khasawneh's was the first of his career.

Flavin also drove in five runs on the day.

Junior Jeff Bultinck and freshman Spencer Sarel both posted three hits, while junior Mike Gansser collected two hits and scored three times.

First-place MU improves to 35-7 overall and 13-3 in the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference. The Saints fall to 21-17-2 and 8-8.

**AQUINAS 4-0, MADONNA 0-7:** The

Crusaders (33-7, 11-3) divided a twinbill Saturday at Ilitch Ballpark against visiting Aquinas College (21-15, 8-6).

Aquinas took the opener, 7-0, as senior left-hander Joe Welton (6-2) got the victory, allowing just three hits and one walk while striking out seven.

MU starter Jeremy Gooding suffered his first loss in seven decisions. The Livonia native and Dearborn Divine Child grad allowed four earned runs on seven hits and three walks in six innings.

Aquinas, scoring four times in the third inning and three in the seventh, got two hits and two RBI apiece from Andrew Bard and Will Eberle.

Jon Good also knocked in two runs for the Saints.

Spencer Sarel had a hit and walk for MU.

MU senior right-hander John Ballarin (5-1) returned the favor on the mound in the nightcap against Aquinas, tossing a six-hit shutout in a 4-0 win. The transfer from Eastern Michigan University struck out four and walked only two in seven innings.

"John threw a good game," MU coach Greg Haeger said. "He's been doing pretty well for us as of late. He threw a good game, kept the ball low and changed speeds. He gave us a chance to win."

Ted Toune and Jeff Bultinck each collected two hits for MU, while Matt Kay (Canton), Alex Charles and Brad Lineberry (Plymouth) each knocked in a run.

# Pats softball team takes down Edsel, 11-1

Livonia Franklin's softball team improved to 6-4 overall with an 11-1 non-league victory Tuesday at home over Dearborn Edsel Ford.

Winning pitcher Nicole Williamson, a sophomore, gave up two hits, walked three and struck out six in the five-inning mercy.

Freshman Mackenzie Lukas had a 2-run double in the opening inning as the Patriots scored six times.

Other top hitters for Franklin included freshman Maggie Leins (2-for-3, three RBI); Mariah Barcus (two hits, RBI); Nicole Emery (two hits) and Jessica Emery (RBI double).

Losing pitcher Emily Mihalik gave up 12 hits and walked eight in five innings.

**SOUTH LYON 7, CHURCHILL 0:** Pitcher Danielle Godair struck out nine and allowed just one hit Monday as the host Lions (17-3) blanked Livonia Churchill (6-5) in a Kensington Conference crossover.

South Lyon erupted for five runs in the fifth to break the game open thanks to several Charger misplays.

Rachel Jason had the lone hit for Churchill.

**STEVENSON 14, WAYNE 4:** Shelby Wilson went 3-for-3 with three RBI and two stolen bases Monday as host Livonia Stevenson (9-6) defeated Wayne Memorial (0-11) in a six-inning mercy.

Ashley Avery, the winning pitcher, gave up four runs on five hits and three walks. She fanned seven.

Losing pitcher Nicole Odom

doubled in two runs and scored for the Zebras.

Stevenson collected nine hits and drew eight walks.

**SALEM 9, FRANKLIN 3:** On Monday, the host Rocks (6-2) took advantage of four Franklin errors in the second inning to score six runs en route to a Kensington Conference crossover win over Livonia Franklin (5-4).

Winning pitcher Briana Lee homered during the 6-run surge. She struck out eight, walked none and allowed six hits in six innings.

Franklin sophomore pitcher Tiffany Lambie (4-4) gave up four earned runs on nine hits. She struck out three and walked none.

Nicole Emery went 2-for-4 and scored a run, while Chelsea Williams added an RBI single for the Patriots. Jessica Emery doubled, while Chyenne Hawthorne and Mariah Barcus also scored runs.

**SOUTH LYON 7-4, STEVENSON 3-0:** On April 21, the host Lions (16-3, 4-0) swept a KLA Central Division twinbill from Livonia Stevenson (5-5, 1-3).

South Lyon won the opener, 7-3, as winning pitcher Danielle Godair went 3-for-4 with a homer and two RBI. She allowed seven hits, walked two and struck out seven.

Gabrielle Williams also went 3-for-4 with a pair of doubles and one RBI.

Stevenson's Jacqueline Johnson, who gave up six runs on 13 hits and two walks, suffered the loss.

Danielle Boore, tossing a two-hitter, fanned 11 and walked only two in seven innings as South Lyon took the nightcap, 4-0.

Williams went 2-for-3 with a double and RBI to lead the Lions.

Johnson, who gave up four runs on eight hits in seven innings, took the loss. She fanned six.

## TRACK

FROM PAGE B1

in all of the events to have a strong showing.

"We are working in progress and want to be competitive and score in as many events as we can."

Stevenson coach Scott Shaw believes his team will be competitive in most relays and has a

chance with a strong showing in the field events.

"There are a number of very good teams and things look pretty even for many of them," he said. "I think it will be one of the best showings in the last few years. CC, all three Plymouth schools, Harrison, Franklin and, as always, Churchill I would say, probably are the favorites. I'm not sure where we will figure into the mix, but I know that our kids are looking

forward to being competitive."

Franklin coach Pat Koelzer, who ran under CC coach Tony Magni, is looking forward to the 40th annual event.

"Observerland is a great tradition," the second-year Patriot coach said. "To win, a team has to have the right combination of talent and depth to be able to score in nearly every event against a strong pool of competition. For us to do well, we will need everyone performing at their best, some really good handoffs and some depth in a few areas that we're still hoping to develop this week."

Koelzer said several teams appear formidable.

"Of the teams we've seen so far, Plymouth and Harrison look very solid and Churchill was third last year," he said. "Stevenson and Salem will be fast and deep, and my old coach (Tony Magni) will have CC ready to try to defend their title."

Westland John Glenn is a longshot, but the Rockets have one of the fastest sprinters in the area in senior Jeremy Langford, who is bound for Michigan State in a football scholarship. Junior Anthony Blair has also gone 6-5 in the high jump.

"In order for us to have a good showing, we will have to score well in the field events and score big in the speed races," Glenn coach Jess Shough said. "We do not have enough depth in the distance races to score well. I look for Jeremy to do well in the 100 dash. I look for our 400 and 800 relay teams to do well. I look for our high jump and long jump relays to do well. The competition is very balanced this year, so we plan on being competitive."

Harrison coach John Reed said the Hawks plan to give

their best effort despite missing some athletes due to injuries and a school field trip.

The Hawks are 4-0 in OAA dual meets and fresh from winning the Raider Relays at North Farmington last week. Harrison won the pole vault and the sprint medley, 800 and 1,600 relays.

"That was probably the best night we've had early in the season in a long time," Reed said. "If we can perform like that, we'll have a good meet at Observerland."

"We have a lot of depth, and we'll put something together. We'll see where we are and we'll put the best possible team out there. I don't think we're going to be full strength, but we still expect to compete and do our best."

"We should do well in the long jump, and we have a good high jump relay team. We have three pole vaulters who are pretty decent, so that should score. We'll be real good in the sprint relays."

Farmington, whose only dual-meet loss was to Harrison, also has good sprint relay teams and its share of good athletes in other areas.

"You want to do well, but it's just such a tough meet," Farmington coach Chip Bridges said, adding the Falcons have another OAA dual meet Tuesday. "If you go in thinking you're going to get a ton of points, it's going to take you a while to recover from that meet."

"We'll go after some things and try to be competitive. We're going to be a little cautious, too. We might get a race here or there from some of our (injured) kids that we haven't seen in a while. It's going to be a good meet."

# Barber's 1-hit gem lifts Hawks, 1-0

Westland Huron Valley Lutheran pitcher Andy Barber usually holds shop when he goes to the mound. And Tuesday it was no different as the junior won a close shave as the host Hawks stayed unbeaten with a 1-0 victory Michigan Independent Athletic Conference Red Division victory over Novi Franklin Road Christian.

Barber went all seven innings, allowing just one, walked four and struck out seven.

Richie Mamo doubled home Tyler Wagaman with game's lone run as Huron Valley improved to 6-0 overall and 5-0 in the MIAC Red.

Losing pitcher Seth Rayburn allowed just four hits and a walk in six innings.

The loss drops Franklin Road to 1-3 in the Red.

**LUTHERAN WESTLAND 11, PARKWAY 1:** Winning pitcher Austin Baglow keyed a 17-hit attack going 4-for-4 with a double, two triples and two RBI on Tuesday as host Lutheran High Westland (7-3, 4-1) took five innings to mercy Sterling Heights Parkway (1-7, 0-5) in a MIAC Blue Division game.

Baglow allowed three hits, walked two and struck out six to pick up the victory.

Taurek Fikes also chipped in at

the plate going 3-for-3 with two runs scored.

Other Warriors getting into the act included Ben Derrminer, 2-for-3, a double and three RBI; Nick Andrezejewski and Gage Flaney, 2-for-4, a double and two RBI apiece; and Marc Rosin, 2-for-3, two runs.

**SUMMIT 7, CLARENCEVILLE 5:** On Tuesday, Livonia Clarenceville (6-10) managed just four hits - two by Eric Trotter - in a non-conference setback against Romulus Summit Academy.

Jimmy Moody and Mike Schiffman each had RBI groundouts, while Ben Gehan delivered a run-scoring single in the second to stake the Trojans to a 4-3 advantage.

But Summit tallied two runs in the fourth to retake the lead and added two key insurance runs in the top of the seventh to claim the victory.

Damien Quarles, who went all seven innings, took the loss for Clarenceville. He allowed eight hits and fanned four.

**LUTHERAN WESTLAND 16, KENSINGTON 0:** It lasted only three innings Monday as host Lutheran High Westland (6-3) rolled to a non-conference mercy-rule triumph over Howell Kensington Woods Academy (0-5).

Winning pitcher Nick Andrezejewski allowed just one hit, walked one and struck out two in his three-inning stint.

Kent Krzyzski went 2-for-3 with three RBI, while Marc Rosin was also 2-for-3 with a double, RBI and three runs scored.

Gage Flaney added two hits and scored twice.

**SIMPLY SELF STORAGE**

Notice is hereby given that on May 14, 2010 on or after 9:30 a.m. that Simply Self Storage will be offering for sale under the judicial lien Process by Public Auction the following units. The goods to be sold are generally described as household goods. Terms of the sale are preferred cash only but will except debit/credit. Simply Self Storage reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. The sale will be at the following location: 34333 E. Michigan Ave. Wayne MI. 48184 (734)728-8204.

A155	Ed Wilson	Shop Vacs, 2 TV's, 20 boxes, tools
A200	Rosalind Morgan	Washer, Dresser, Big Screen TV
A318	Ronald Parson	Table Saw, Tools, File cabinet
B102	Donald Hickman Jr.	Mattress, Vacuum, Couch

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# SOCIAL SECURITY

Many people are wrongly rejected when they apply for Social Security Disability benefits. Money was taken out of their paychecks for Social Security taxes to ensure that they would receive disability benefits if they could no longer work full-time. Sadly, the government denies approximately 60% of those who apply for disability benefits.

The tragedy is that less than half of those persons who are denied benefits file an appeal. Thus, many thousands of people who deserve benefits never receive them.

Those denied can appeal on their own, but statistics for many years reveal that those represented by attorneys win a much higher percentage of appeals. And attorneys who specialize in Social Security Disability cases win a much higher percentage yet.

Attorney J.B. Bieske has represented only Social Security Disability clients for over 20 years. That is the only type of law he practices. And, he personally meets with all clients and appears himself at all court hearings. Many large firms assign clients to young associate attorneys with much less experience.

In addition to practicing only Social Security Disability law Bieske has written a book for attorneys about the subject. He also has been interviewed on various radio and television programs and has given speeches to many groups.

Bieske's office staff consists of paralegals and secretaries who are also highly experienced in assisting him with Social Security Disability cases. And they are extremely helpful in answering questions with regard to the status of clients' cases and administrative procedure.

Attorney Bieske welcomes you to call him to determine if you may be eligible for these benefits. He offers free phone or office consultations. If Bieske represents you, there will be no fee charged until after the case is won. The fee is a percentage of retroactive benefits.

In a recent radio interview attorney Bieske explained that many people are not even aware that they are eligible for Social Security Disability benefits. These are not the same as Workers' Compensation benefits. It is possible to receive both benefits at the same time. If you have an illness or injury (whether or not related to your work), are under 65 and unable to work full-time you may be eligible. Social Security Disability benefits are based on your work record or your deceased spouse's work record (Widow's/Widower's benefits).

Bieske represents clients from all over the state of Michigan. Call him at 1-800-331-3530 for a FREE consultation if you have been denied. Or if you are thinking of possibly applying for Social Security benefits call him for FREE advice.

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# Westland-Garden City Strictly Business

## IT'S YOUR BUSINESS Q&A



Sandy Sanders and Jan Crawford, owner, say the family-owned Westland Lock and Key offers one-stop shop for everything lock and key related.

## Westland Lock and Key makes their customers feel secure

**Observer:** Tell us about your business, including the type of products or services you offer?

We sell and service all types of locks, safes, keyless entry, intercoms, access control, high security locks and master key systems. We are your one-stop shop for everything lock and key related. We sell and service Medeco, Schlage, Kwikset and many more. Come to us for one key or a complete change of locks.

**Observer:** How did you first decide to open your business?

My parents started the business in 1965. I started as a locksmith in 1970 and bought it from them in 1981.

**Observer:** Why did you choose Westland?

It was Nankin Township then, Ford Road was the new downtown with lots of traffic, great exposure.

**Observer:** What makes the place

### WESTLAND LOCK AND KEY

**Business Name:** Westland Lock and Key Inc.

**Address:** 35665 Ford Road, Westland

**Name and Title:** Jan Crawford, president

**Number of employees:** 4

**Hours:** We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Year opened:** 1965

**Your specialty:** Locks and security

**Business Phone:** (734) 722-1850

**Web site:** www.westlandlockandkey.com

**unique?**

We go the extra mile to make sure our customers are and feel secure. Westland Lock and Key is a family owned and operated eco-friendly security

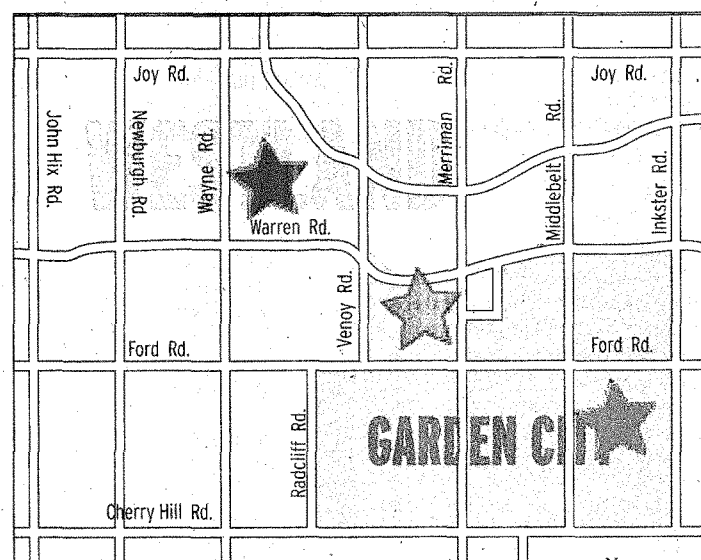
company with over 45 years of business experience working in south eastern Michigan.

Our courteous and trustworthy staff is both innovative and knowledgeable when it comes to residential or commercial security issues. What sets us apart from many others in our field is that our staff really cares about our customers. We go the extra mile to help educate and problem solve our customers security issues and concerns.

**Observer:** Care to share a funny story about your experiences being a small business owner?

The day the guy came in with a ball and chain around his ankle. He was getting married and his friends thought it would be funny. We had to remove the shackle from his ankle by picking the lock. Just one of our very funny stories.

## BUSINESS MILESTONES



### 'Ticket to Kick It'

**Location:** Participating Little Caesars restaurants

**Details:** Little Caesars Pizza, PepsiCo, and Columbia Pictures are sponsoring "Your Ticket to Kick It," a scratch-off game promotion, in anticipation of the release of Columbia Pictures' "The Karate Kid." Little Caesars customers will receive a "Your Ticket to Kick It" scratch-off code card by purchasing a fresh HOT-N-READY® pizza with any Pepsi, Diet Pepsi or any available product in the portfolio. Customers simply scratch off their card to determine if they have won the grand prize of a year's worth of movie tickets, Little Caesars pizza, and Pepsi-Cola beverages or other prizes including individual movie tickets, movie posters, "The Karate Kid merchandise," or discount coupons for Little Caesars and Pepsi products. Cards are available while they last.

### Special holidays

**Date/Time:** Throughout May

**Location:** Mary Denning's Cake Shoppe, 8036 N. Wayne Road, Westland

**Details:** There's plenty of special "holidays" to celebrate at Mary Denning's, starting with No Diet Day on May 6. Stop by and get \$5 off and \$10 order. On May 8, kids are invited to decorate a cake for mom for Mother's Day for only \$3 per cake. May 15 is Chocolate Chip Day - buy two chocolate chip muffins and get one free. And stop May 25 is Cookie Monster Birthday. Buy six cookies and get six free. Limit 12 free cookies.

**Contact:** (734) 261-3680 or (888) 715-4479

### It's show time

**Time/Date:** 7 p.m. Friday May 21

**Location:** Hawthorne Valley Country Club, 7300 Merriman, Westland

**Details:** If you enjoyed the sound of the RAT Pack, with Frank, Dean & Sammy, you will be amazed on this

mixture of this hot new threesome as they hit the stage. First enjoy all the ambiance that Hawthorne Valley has to offer as Chef George prepares you for another one of his tantalizing feasts. After dinner, get your dancing shoes ready and be star struck as "The Black Pack" hits the stage with live tributes to the legendary Jackie Wilson, the man they call the innovator Mr. Ray Charles and none other than the Big Daddy Boo Bear himself Mr. Barry White. All backed by the Radio City Show Band. Tickets on sale now and available at Salute To The Superstars.com. Dinner is at 7 p.m., followed by the show at 8:15 p.m.

**Contact:** (734) 422-1970 or www.hawthorne@hawthornevalley.com

### General store

**Time/Date:** noon to 3 p.m.

Wednesdays and Saturdays

**Location:** The Lathers General Store inside the Straight Farmhouse, 6221 Merriman, Garden City

**Details:** Looking for something different. Visit the old-fashioned general store that's a gift shop, boutique, and resale shop. It benefits the Straight Farmhouse, home of the Garden City Historical Museum.

**Contact:** (734) 838-0650

### Gamers' delight

**Time/Days:** noon to 8 p.m. Sunday, noon to midnight Monday-Friday and 10 a.m. to midnight Saturday

**Location:** Pandemonium, 1858 Middlebelt, Garden City

**Details:** A true hobby gaming store, Pandemonium specializes in collectible card games, miniature games, role-playing games, Chessex Dice, Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Strategic board games, Forge World, used miniatures and books and much more.

**Contact:** (734)-427-2451

### Dine for \$7.99

**Time/Day:** 4-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday

**Location:** Texas Roadhouse, 36750 Ford, Westland

**Details:** Texas Roadhouse is now offering 10 dinners priced at just \$7.99. This legendary offer is similar to the Texas 2fers offer but is even better by offering you more choices. Your dinner options include 6-ounce Sirloin, Road Kill, Single Pork Chop, Pulled Pork Dinner, Grilled BBQ Chicken, Country Fried Chicken, Chicken Critters Dinner, Grilled Chicken Salad, Chicken Caesar Salad and Chicken Critter Salad. All dinners except salads come with two made-from-scratch sides of your choice and fresh baked bread.

**Contact:** (734) 729-4570

## BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

### Get booked

It's all about books, the big Book-a-thon Exhibit event at the Maplewood Community Center in Garden City on Saturday, May 8.

The exhibit will feature several local authors who have come together to showcase their work and expand their reading audiences. It will be held from 1-5 p.m. at the center at 31735 Maplewood, west of Merriman.

The coordinator is Saunda Cunningham, author of *Who am I*. The book is an autobiography of urban life reflections, personal narratives, social issues and true life mishaps intertwined with inspirational thoughts and messages projected toward young adults as a mentoring preparation guide.

Just like Cunningham, many other authors write to inspire, encourage, uplift, enlighten or help readers evolve with words from experience. Contents displayed at the exhibit are

created from a variety of writing styles for various genre of reading audiences from health wellness to children stories and everything in between.

"We have partnered to extend awareness that you don't have to be a Danielle Steel to touch the hearts of book lovers in the Michigan area.," said Cunningham.

### Wedding bells

If you or someone you know is planning a wedding, make sure they visit Wedding Row at the Livonia Expo Thursday, May 13, for the chance to win an all-expenses paid wedding presented by the Livonia Embassy Suites and sponsored by Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury in Garden City, the Livonia Chamber of Commerce and other Michigan organizations.

The prize package includes a reception at the Livonia Embassy Suites hotel in September as well as entertainment, photographer, wedding cake, a Lincoln to drive

during the honeymoon from Metropolitan Lincoln Mercury in Garden City, a honeymoon stay at a series of Michigan resorts and more.

The annual Livonia Business Expo is set to take place at Burton Manor on the 1-96 Service Drive north of Middlebelt, Livonia. The expo hall will be open from 10 a.m. to noon and 1:30-4 p.m. Admission during these times is free. Numerous prizes will be handed out throughout the day to those who visit.

From 5-8 p.m., Taste of the Town, sponsored by TDS Metrocom, will feature foods prepared by at least 15 restaurants. These food displays will be mixed in with the expo exhibitors. Admission to the Taste of the Town is \$10 per person and includes soft drinks.

Call the Livonia chamber at (734) 427-2122 or e-mail Dawnne Toppa, the chamber's director of public affairs, at toppa@livonia.org for more information.

## CHAMBER CHAT

Everyone should have access to fresh, healthy, local food, and Garden City's Farmers' Market is a great place to purchase fresh Michigan produce and connect with local farmers and the community.

The Garden City Farmers' Market features a wide variety of flowers, plants, seasonal fruits, vegetables and bakery goods and much more. Rain or shine the market will be open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Wednesday, May 5 through Oct. 27.

The market is located at the northeast corner of Ford Road and Middlebelt in the Garden

City Town Center Plaza.

There also are a variety of events planned for this year's market. The fourth Wednesday of every month is the Market Basket Drawing. There also will be a Perennial Plant Exchange, sponsored by the Garden City Garden Club on May 12, and the "Healthy Generations-Celebrating Nurses Week," sponsored by Garden City Hospital, on May 26.

The vendors include Dutchmill Farms, Fusilier Family Farm and Greenhouse, Kapnick Orchards, Nemeth Greenhouse and Farms,

Paluch Farms, Springbrook Gardens Florist, Rheiiland Baked Goods, Unforgettable Yummy Nuts, Hog Wild Smoked Sausage and Forever Garden Flowers.

Farmers and vendors interested in participating in the Garden City Farmers' Market can contact the Garden City Chamber office at (734) 422-4448. The market is sponsored by the Garden City Chamber of Commerce and Garden City the Downtown Development Authority.

Amelia Oliverio executive director, GC Chamber

April 30 May 1 May 2 2010

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Choral group sings music by master composers

BY SHARON DARGAY  
O&E STAFF WRITER

The repertoire is challenging.

The rehearsals are demanding — weekly for four months.

And the payoff lasts about an hour each year.

But individuals for whom “singing is their quality of life and they are dedicated to it,” join the Plymouth Oratorio Society because they enjoy performing classical music, even if it’s only at one annual concert, says Richard Ingram, who has directed the choir for four years.

“It’s a delightful group of people who come together each week to tackle hard music,” he said. “Over 24 years they’ve built a reputation in the area. It’s always fun to be able to work with a community chorus that has the ability to do this kind of music.”

The choral group’s 80-plus members will sing Ralph Vaughan Williams’ *Benedicite, Nünie*, by Brahms, and Dvorák’s *Mass in D*, at 4:30 p.m., Sunday, May 2, at First United Methodist Church, 45201 N. Territorial, Plymouth. The Michigan Sinfonietta Orchestra will accompany the choir. Bonnie Kidd, Ingram’s colleague at Huron High School in Ann Arbor, is the guest soprano soloist. Admission is free, although a free-will offering will be accepted.

Ingram selected the music, which includes two 19th-century compositions and one piece from mid-20th century.

“The Vaughan Williams piece has great contrast. It’s fast and loud and bombastic, but the middle section when the soprano comes in is very much more subdued,” he noted.



Richard Ingram directs the Plymouth Oratorio Society.

The Brahms requiem is sung “mid-tempo” in German. The Mass combines slow and fast movements that make for an “exciting musical experience.”

### MASTER COMPOSERS

Don Pratt, Society business manager, said the classical repertoire sets the group apart

from other community choruses.

“We don’t use auditions, which surprises many people. We feel that the music we sing is the audition. Other groups do a lighter style concert, which is okay, but it’s just not what we do. The other thing we do is sing with a professional orches-

tra. They are all professionals and that raises the level of our whole concert.”

Pratt, a retired math teacher from Huron High School, and his wife, Kathy, have sung with the group since it began and have performed at every concert. The upcoming performance is especially significant because it’s dedicated to his late father, Robert Pratt, who conducted the Plymouth Oratorio Society for its first nine years.

Pratt sang under his father’s direction in about a dozen different choral groups through the years, including the Plymouth Oratorio Society.

“It was an honor and a privilege every time,” he said. Pratt’s mother also sang in the Society, his sister, who now lives out of state, has returned three times to sing a solo in concert and his oldest daughter sang for two years.

“We had seven (family) members off and on who have sung with the Plymouth Oratorio Society. It’s a special thing for me.”

### FUN, CHALLENGING

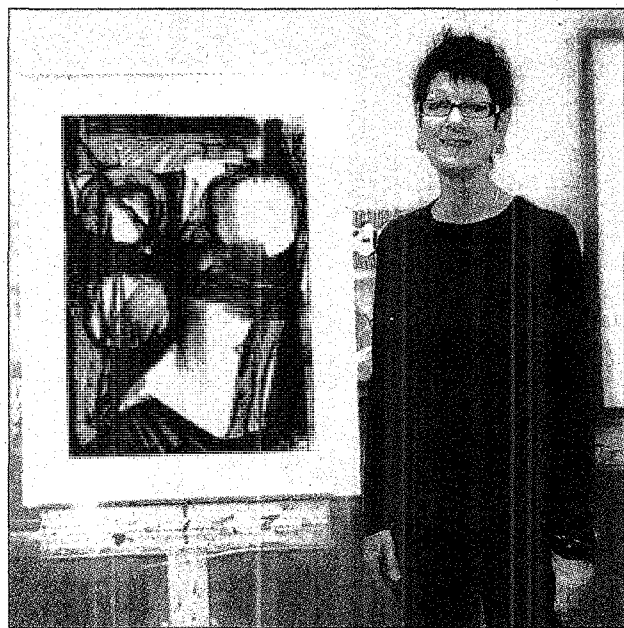
Pratt said the Society draws members from as far away as Jackson and Lake Orion. Many also sing in church choirs.

“It all comes to fruition this weekend. You’ve worked for four months and it’s all going to happen on Sunday and will be over in an hour. It’s the most fun, hard work you’ll ever do,” he said.

Ingram described the concert setting as beautiful and the acoustics as superb.

“If any folks have not been inside the First Methodist Church in Plymouth, they are in for a treat,” Ingram said.

Visit the group’s Web site at [www.plymouthoratoriosociety.org](http://www.plymouthoratoriosociety.org)



Livonia artist, Bonita Collins, shows “structure Series #5,” the first place winner in Visual Arts Association of Livonia’s annual spring show.

## Browse, buy art at annual spring show

Meet winners of the Visual Arts Association of Livonia’s annual spring exhibit at an awards presentation from 7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 5, at Livonia City Hall, 33000 Civic Center Drive, at Five Mile east of Farmington Road.

Bonita Collins of Livonia took first place for “Structure Series #5,” which will be displayed, along with works by other local artists, from May 4-28 at city hall. Second place winner was Regina Dunne of Northville for “The Runner” and third place went to Ken Blevins of Westland for “Before the Rain.”

The Visual Arts Association of Livonia is dedicated to advancing knowledge and appreciation of the creative

arts by offering studio classes and annual exhibits. Members meet at 7 p.m. the third Thursday every month, except June, July, and December, in classroom 14 at the Dickinson Center, 18000 Newburgh, Livonia.

The spring show is open to the public 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. It includes a variety of works, including sculpture and photography, that are available for purchase.

Robert Scheffman, an art professor and chair of the Foundations Department at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, juried the show.

For more information about VAAL and its spring show, call (734) 838-1204.

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Tickets \$15-\$18

# OKLAHOMA!

by Rodgers & Hammerstein

April 23, 24 & 25 • April 30, May 1 & 2  
Fri: 8pm, Sat: 2pm & 8pm, Sun: 2pm



# Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with food fiesta

This Cinco de Mayo, make sure you're prepared to celebrate the Mexican victory over the French at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. Gather your family on this festive day to enjoy music, dancing and, of course, great Mexican food.

As you're getting ready for this year's fiesta, keep Mama Ortega in mind. Maria Conception Jacinta Dominguez Ortega, otherwise known as Mama Ortega, raised a family of 13 children

with homemade Mexican meals every night. One hundred fifty years later her traditions still live on with Mexican foods from Ortega.

Make some of your own family traditions with great recipes such as Pasta and Grilled Vegetable Salad with Cilantro Dressing, BBQ Chicken Tacos, Taco Casserole or, perhaps, a Frozen Margarita Pie.

To get new ideas on Cinco de Mayo recipes and valuable coupons, visit [www.ortega.com](http://www.ortega.com).

## TACO CASSEROLE

Prep Time: 10 minutes/Start to Finish: 30 minutes

Makes: 8 servings

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 bottle (8 ounces) taco sauce
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 can (4 ounces) fire-roasted diced green chiles
- 1 packet (1.25 ounces) taco seasoning mix
- 1 package (12-count) corn taco shells, broken, divided
- 2 cups (8 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- Chopped tomatoes, chopped green bell pepper, sour cream

Preheat oven to 375°F. Grease 11 x 7-inch baking dish.

Cook beef and onion in large skillet over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until beef is browned. Drain and discard excess fat.

Stir in taco sauce, water, chiles and seasoning mix; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to low. Cook 3 to 4 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Layer half of broken taco shells on bottom of prepared baking dish. Cover with half of meat mixture; sprinkle with 1 cup cheese. Repeat layers with remaining ingredients.

Bake 20 to 25 minutes or until bubbly and cheese is melted. Serve with desired toppings.



Frozen Margarita Pie

## FROZEN MARGARITA PIE

Prep Time: 15 minutes/Start to Finish: 4 hours

Makes: 8 servings

- Crust
- 10 yellow corn taco shells
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- Filling
- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
- 1/2 cup frozen limeade, thawed
- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- 1 drop green food coloring
- 1 cup whipping cream
- Lime curls (optional)

Place taco shells in food processor and pulse until evenly ground.

Melt butter in medium saucepan over low heat. Remove from heat. Stir in taco crumbs and sugar until well blended. Press firmly over bottom and up sides of 9-inch pie plate.

Place in freezer until firm.

Combine sweetened condensed milk, limeade, orange juice and food coloring in large mixing bowl.

Whip cream until soft peaks form. Fold whipped cream gently into condensed milk mixture until blended. Pour onto prepared crust.

Freeze uncovered, 4 hours or until firm. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Garnish with lime curls, if desired.

Tip: To crush taco shells without a food processor, place them in a resealable plastic food storage bag and run a rolling pin over the shells until they're evenly crushed.

## PASTA AND GRILLED VEGETABLE SALAD WITH CILANTRO DRESSING

Prep Time: 15 minutes/Start to Finish: 30 minutes

Makes: 6 to 8 servings

- Dressing
- 1 can (4 ounces) fire-roasted diced green chiles
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1 tablespoon red wine vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon minced garlic
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- Salad
- 1 red bell pepper, cored, seeded, cut in half
- 1 green bell pepper, cored, seeded, cut in half
- 1 medium zucchini, cut lengthwise into thin slices
- 1 medium yellow squash, cut lengthwise into thin slices
- 1 large red onion, cut into 1/2-inch-thick wedges
- 1 pound pasta shells or penne, cooked

1 jar (16 ounces) vegetable salsa

1/2 cup firmly packed fresh basil, cut into thin strips

Lettuce leaves (optional)

Combine chiles, cilantro, oil, vinegar and garlic in small bowl. Whisk until well blended. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Set aside.

Preheat grill to medium-high heat, about 15 minutes. Lightly brush grill grid with vegetable oil.

Grill bell peppers, zucchini, squash and onion 3 to 5 minutes per side or until fork-tender. Remove vegetables from grill; cut into bite-size pieces.

Toss cooked pasta, salsa, sliced vegetables and basil in large bowl or serving platter. Serve with dressing on lettuce leaves, if desired.

## CITY BITES

### Got Probiotics?

Northville - Test Guernsey Farms Dairy's new line of probiotic milk and its other products at a Taste Fest, 2-4 p.m., Saturday, May 1, at the dairy, 21300 Novi Road, between Eight Mile and Nine Mile.

Probiotics, known as "good bacteria" help support healthy digestive and immune systems. Guernsey Farms Dairy teamed with Geneden Biotech, Inc., maker of the patented probiotic strain, GenedenBC30, to produce the new probiotic-enhanced line of milk.

"Now consumers who enjoy our milk can have the added health benefits of probiotics without having to take a supplement," said Tom Rice, marketing director for Guernsey Farms Dairy.

The probiotic milk is available in 2 percent lowfat and skim, and is free of growth hormone. It's available at the dairy's retail store as well as at Hillers markets, Busch's, Plum Markets, Holiday Markets, Picnic Basket, and other food retailers.

In addition to milk, Guernsey Farms Dairy produces half & Half, whip cream, sour cream, chip dip,

McGuire hot fudge, buttermilk, orange juice, yogurt, eggnog and lemonade. [www.guernseyfarmsdairy.com](http://www.guernseyfarmsdairy.com); (248) 349-1466.

### Wine and trees

Farmington Hills - Celebrate Arbor Day Friday, April 30 with a glass of Tangley Oaks wine at Antonio's Cucina Italiana.

Every glass or bottle of Tangley's chardonnay or merlot sold at the restaurant, represents one new tree donated by the California winery to The Arbor Day Foundation. The winery also is donating a percentage of its profits this year for tree planting.

Louis Johnson, bartender at Antonio's in Farmington Hills, said he suggested the restaurant partner with Tangley and The Arbor Day Foundation.

"I thought it was something that was interesting and would inspire people to give back a little," he said, describing the "One Wine-One Tree" program.

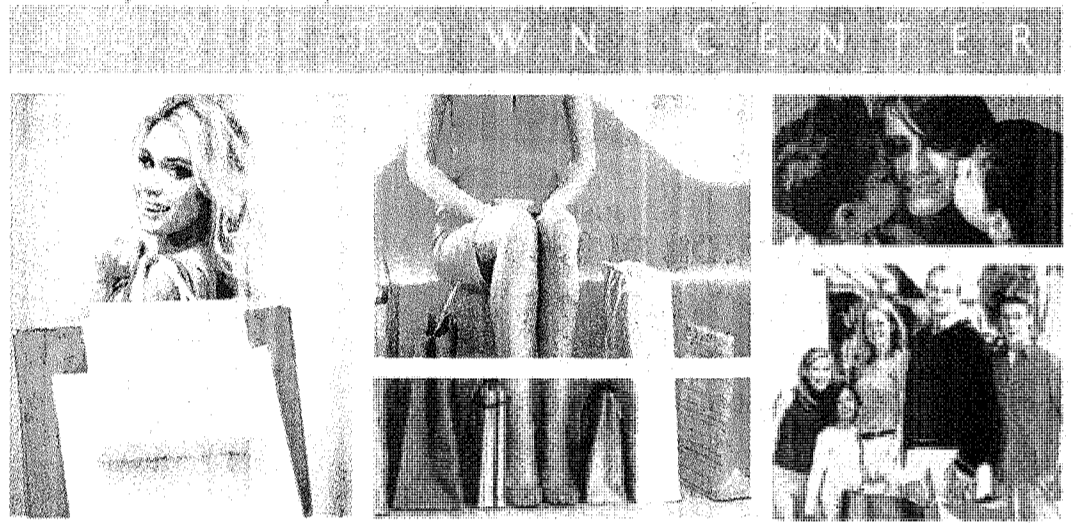
Antonio's Cucina Italiana also has restaurants in Dearborn Heights and Canton

For more information, visit [www.antoniosrestaurant.com](http://www.antoniosrestaurant.com).

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# Northville Farmers' Market

## Opening Day is May 6th

Kick off Spring with a visit to the Northville Farmers' Market. Enjoy over 100 stalls of Michigan Made and Michigan Grown Finds.

Every 3rd Thursday is "Chefs at the Market." See local chefs select from the market, create great dishes to sample and receive recipe cards.

Northville Farmers' Market is located on the northwest corner of Sheldon and 7 Mile Rd. in the Northville Downs parking lot.

Presented by: **TOM HOLZER** The No Problem Dealer. Ford

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For more information contact the Northville Chamber of Commerce: Phone: 248-349-7640 or visit [www.northville.org](http://www.northville.org)

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